

Jesus is the promised Messiah and the Son of God who by His life, death and resurrection redeems His people—delivering them from sin and calling them to follow Him as the Suffering Servant.

THE BEGINNING Mark 1:1

Author: John Mark, who compiled Peter’s eyewitness testimony.

“Mark, who had been Peter’s interpreter, wrote down carefully, but not in order, all that he remembered of the Lord’s sayings and doings. For he had not heard the Lord or been one of his followers, but later, as I said, one of Peter’s. Peter used to adapt his teaching to the occasion, without making a systematic arrangement of the Lord’s sayings, so that Mark was quite justified in writing down some things just as he remembered them. For he had one purpose only—to leave out nothing that he had heard, and to make no misstatement about it.” —History of the Church 3.39.15

The Beginning:

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Mark 1:1

- This is the creation account, Genesis 1, new birth, new thing that is happening

Gospel (appears in Mark 1:14,15; 8:35; 10:29; 13:10;14:9)

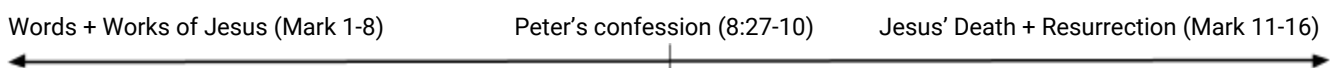
- Greek ‘euangelion’: “reward for bringing good news,” glad tidings, referred to victory in battle with resulting peace and release from oppression, political triumph, physical rescue (Isaiah 40:9-10; 52:7; 61:1-3)
- “Whereas the Providence which has ordered the whole of our life, showing concern and zeal has ordained the most perfect consummation for human life by giving to it Augustus, by filling him with virtue for doing the work of a benefactor among men, and by sending in him, as it were, a saviour for us and those who come after us, to make war to cease, to create order everywhere... and whereas the birthday of the God [Augustus] was the beginning for the world of the glad tidings that have come to men through him...” —Priene Calendar Inscription
- **From the very first verse, Mark is introducing Jesus as the good news for the world, not the Roman elite**

Jesus Christ (the Messiah, Anointed One)

- Greek ‘Christos’: “Anointed One” or “Messiah” is a royal title used in the Old Testament to describe divinely appointed kings of Israel, and ultimately the great eschatological Deliverer (1 Samuel 2:10; 2 Samuel 22:51; Daniel 9:25-26; Isaiah 9:1-7; 11:1-5; 61:1)
- “Sir, these and suchlike passages of scripture compel us to await One who is great and glorious, and takes the everlasting Kingdom from the Ancient of Days as Son of Man. But this your so-called Christ is without honour and glory, so that He has even fallen into the uttermost curse that is in the Law of God, for he was crucified.” —Justin Martyr [100-165AD] Dialogue with Trypho
- **Expectations are everything. Jesus’ mission to come as the Suffering Servant did not meet up with the first-century Jewish audience’s expectation that Jesus would uproot Rome and deliver the Jewish people.**

Son of God (appears in Mark 3:11; 5:7; 9:7; 13:32; 15:39)

- Contrasting Caesar as a god, Mark points all eyes to the true and divine king, Jesus the Son of God.



- **Jesus is exactly Who He claimed to be, the Messiah, Son of God.**

The Ending:

“They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” Mark 16:8

- The ending is an invitation to the beginning, an invitation to come and die, life on the other side of death
- **“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”** – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*
- **Who is Jesus?**

Digging Deeper + Reflection Questions:

“And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.” - Mark 8:34-35

“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

Here is the context of his most famous quote:

The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old man which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death - we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him, or it may be a death like Luther’s, who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world. But it is the same death every time - death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call. (*The Cost of Discipleship*, 99)

The question for us is the very same question that confronted the disciples 2,000 years ago, “Where do we go from here?” As Mark calls his account “the beginning of the gospel” we are handed the torch to continue to carry the gospel to the next generation. How will we continue the story?

- **What are some of the ways you are being called to come and die in this new year?**
- **What are some of the ways that you need to move beyond belief in Jesus, but to truly follow Him?**
- **What next steps do you need to take to begin this new movement in your life?**

Highlights of ways to grow in your faith in 2018 as we follow Jesus together:

SUNDAY MORNINGS: Join us each Sunday morning for worship at Calvary as we go through the series on *The Good News of Mark*, exploring who Jesus is and His life-changing invitation to “Come, Follow Me.”

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS: Come grow in your faith each Wednesday in January at 7:00 pm with amazing ministries for Nursery to High School, plus these great options for adults:

- **Experience the Bible** - Discover the joy of studying the Bible in this 4-week class taught by Pastor Dave in the Chapel. Come learn how to uncover timeless principles from any passage of God’s Word to help guide your life.
- **Jewish Apologetics** - Learn more about the Messiah and how God intends to keep His promises to Israel and the world in this 4-part series taught by Ron Davis in Fellowship Hall.
- **Celebrate Recovery** - Come find God’s healing power through fellowship in this Christ-centered twelve step ministry which meets every Wednesday in S-6 (north side of the Chapel).