

Recap of 1/22/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 1:1)

1. Mark begins his gospel by quoting the Old Testament prophets, Malachi, and Isaiah (Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3) speaking of the coming of Messiah and of the Forerunner. Jesus' coming was not unforeseen or unexpected—it was prophesied...it was predicted.

2. The word translated "gospel" is literally "good news" or "good message."

-Gospel became a technical term referring to "the proclamation of God's power through Jesus Christ to save all who believe – Romans 1:16." (Grassmick)

- "In the New Testament [gospel] denotes the 'good tidings' of the kingdom of God and of salvation through Christ, to be received by faith, on the basis of His expiatory ('making amends or paying a penalty-Christ has paid the debt for our sins') death, His burial, resurrection and ascension." (W.E. Vine)

-The gospel is the good news that we can have a relationship with God because our sins have been forgiven through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's not just good news but it is the best news.

3. From the beginning of his Gospel, Mark sets out to demonstrate who Jesus is and what He came to do. Using the title "Son of God" he points to Jesus' unique relationship to God the Father, pointing to the deity of Christ, deity incarnate.

- "The divinity of Christ is the citadel and keep of Christianity. Here lies the infinite value of the satisfaction He made upon the cross. Here lies the peculiar merit of His atoning death for sinners. That death was not the death of a mere man, like ourselves, but of one who is 'over all, God blessed forever' (Rom. 9:3). We need not wonder that the sufferings of one person were a sufficient propitiation [satisfaction] for the sin of the world when we remember that He who suffered was 'the son of God.' Let believers cling to this doctrine with jealous watchfulness. With it, they stand upon a rock. With it, they have nothing solid beneath their feet." (Ryle)

4. Cults such as Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, Unity, Christian Science, Unification Church, make the heretical error of diminishing either the deity or humanity of Christ or both. (Source: Josh McDowell, Cults Handbook)

5. "To Mark, Jesus was not simply a man among men, He was God among men, ever moving them to wonder and amazement with His words and deeds." (Barclay)