

## A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

### THE GOSPEL IS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Mark 1:1 “The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.” (NIV)

You would think that verse 1 would say, the Gospel according to Saint Mark. As you can read, that is not the case at all. This entire writing by Mark is to record for you and all posterity the message found in John 3:16-17, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” As you probably know, these two verses are often referred to as “the Gospel in a nut shell.” Mark would agree with John regarding the purpose for writing this Gospel, “these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31)

Mark begins this book referencing the words it will contain as “good news.” The Greek word from which is derived the English word gospel is euangelion. A literal translation of this word into English is “good tidings” or “good news.” Isaiah had prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be upon God’s promised Messiah that He would “preach good news to the poor.” (Isaiah 61:1) Luke 4 records a sermon Jesus preached in Nazareth in which Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1 and then said, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” (Luke 4:21) The content of the gospel is Christ Himself. This is why Mark wrote in verse 1, “the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.”

The gospel, the good news, is so important for you to read and hear. St. Paul said of it, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17)

The powerful message of the gospel, recorded by Mark, will be foundational to this series of devotions. Through these devotions the Holy Spirit will be at work to bring you the salvation earned and won for you by Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Come, O Holy Spirit, and work mightily righteousness in my heart through the good news, the gospel, written by Mark for my salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

O God of light, Your Word, a lamp unfailing,  
Shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way  
And show Your grace, Your plan for us unveiling,  
And guide our footsteps to the perfect day.

From days of old, through blind and willful ages,  
Though we rebelled, You gently sought again  
And spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,  
Who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.

Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing  
To sinful hearts Your justice and Your grace;  
And questing spirits, longing for Your healing,  
See Your compassion in the Savior's face.

To all the world Your summons You are sending,  
Through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race.  
That myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,  
May praise and celebrate Your gift of grace.  
(LSB 836)