

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

THE GOSPEL ABOUT JESUS THE MESSIAH

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

The gospel about Jesus the Messiah, written by Mark, is not a biography of the life and activities of Jesus Christ, although the narrative certainly tells the story of His life, death and resurrection. The good news is about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, the good news needed by sinners in need of a savior. The Angel Gabriel said to Joseph regarding the baby boy Mary was to give birth to, “you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21) The gospel is given by God for the salvation of sinners. (Romans 1:16)

This Jesus is THE MESSIAH. The word Messiah means “the anointed one.” Anointing was the act that God used to “set apart, designate, appoint an individual for a divine purpose.” (Baker Bible Dictionary) God anointed, set His Son Jesus apart, to save all of humanity from the eternal punishment they deserved because of their sins. Today the Greek word is used instead of the Hebrew for anoint, namely Christ. Thus, the usual full name for Jesus is Jesus the Christ.

When you speak the words in the Apostle’s Creed “and in Jesus Christ,” you are stating that you believe that Jesus is the Savior of the world, set apart by God to rescue you and all sinners from eternal death in hell. You are confessing that you believe that “salvation is found in no one else than Jesus, for there is no other name under heaven given by God to men by which we must be saved.” (Mirly paraphrase of Acts 4:12)

When you confess that you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Small Catechism says, “you know and trust in Jesus Christ as your only Savior from sin, death, and the devil and believe that He (alone) gives you eternal life.” John writes, “Whoever believes in the Son (Jesus) has eternal life . . .” (John 3:36) This is why Mark opens with the words “The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.” This is God’s good news is to you about your salvation!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I confess that I am a sinner. I come to you in the name of Jesus the Christ asking You to grant me forgiveness of my sins for His sake.
Amen

(An evening prayer hymn – note especially verses 2,4,5)

Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,
Asking Thee to watch and keep And to send me quiet sleep.

Jesus, Savior, wash away All that has been wrong today;
Help me ev'ry day to be Good and gentle, more like Thee.

Let my near and dear ones be Always near and dear to Thee;
O bring me and all I love To Thy happy home above.

Now my evening praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
All my blessings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!

Thou, my best and kindest Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.
Let me love Thee more and more, Always better than before.
(LSB 887)