

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 03 Mar..... Mark 01..... Calls
- 2) 10 Mar..... Mark 02..... Forgives
- 3) 17 Mar..... Mark 03-04..... Unites
- 4) 24 Mar..... Mark 05..... Restores
- 5) 31 Mar..... Mark 06..... Sends
- 6) 07 Apr..... Mark 07..... Includes
- 7) 14 Apr..... Mark 08-09..... Commands
- 8) 21 Apr..... Mark 15..... Saves
- 9) 28 Apr..... Mark 10..... Serves
- 10) 05 May..... Mark 11-12..... Purifies
- 11) 12 May..... Mark 13..... Promises
- 12) 19 May..... Mark 14..... Prepares
- 13) 26 May..... Mark 15-16..... Lives

**INTRODUCTION**

• **The Resurrection.** No fanfare. Just the facts, and a lot of questions on the validity of the last 12 verses...“many signs shall follow them that believe” → BUT for how long?

Passage	Comments
Mark 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The crux of our faith – the Resurrection – is only addressed in 1 chapter in Matthew, Mark &amp; Luke</li> <li>• The Gospel of John covers it in 2 chapters</li> </ul>
16:1-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary Magdalene and friends visit the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for formal burial, but they flee the scene (This could be Mary's 2<sup>nd</sup> trip to the tomb)</li> <li>• According to John, Mary M. apparently was at the tomb while it was still dark and ran into the risen Lord</li> </ul>

**Major Differences between Christianity & Other Religions**

All Other Religions	Christianity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Man is searching for God</li> <li>• Man has a system of rules to appease their god(s)</li> <li>• Their gods don't do anything</li> <li>• Religious founders are dead</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God is searching for us</li> <li>• Christianity is a relationship with God</li> <li>• Our God did everything for us</li> <li>• We have an empty tomb</li> </ul>

16:9-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most reliable early manuscripts and other ancient witnesses do not include this passage. Some scholars believe the last page of the original autograph was lost but the correct text was eventually edited back in.</li> </ul>
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**Received Text Tradition.** Since the majority of biblical manuscripts contain this passage then the original manuscript in all probability contained it.

**Critical Text Tradition.** Truth is not determined by a majority vote, but by the most qualified witnesses:

1. These verses are lacking in many of the oldest and most reliable Greek manuscripts
2. There is another shorter ending to Mark that is found in some manuscripts, but the linguistic style and vocabulary are different from the rest of Mark
3. Many of the ancient church fathers reveal no knowledge of these verses, but some did (Papias, 130; Justin Martyr, 160; Tatian, 172; Tertullian, 220; Aphraates, 367; & Didymus, 398)
4. Early Christians quoted Mark 16:9–20 as Scripture before the manuscripts that left them out ever existed

• **Conclusion of the Matter.** This passage neither adds new truth nor contradicts any truth found in the Bible. Therefore, this passage is a good exercise in linguistics and hermeneutics.

16:15-18	<p><b>Potential Doctrinal Controversies (vv16-18)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v16 – Must be baptized to be saved?</li> <li>• v17,18 – Sign gifts still in existence?</li> </ul> <p>We must realize these are summarized statements and not doctrinal entreaties. We need to consider the “whole counsel of God” to accurately and appropriately assess their intended meaning.</p>
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Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can we or can we not cast out demons, drink poison, speak in tongues, handle poisonous snakes, and heal the sick just as they did in the Gospels and in Acts?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know</li> <li>• Recall that the Apostles and some of the early disciples healed every infirmity just as Jesus did                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Peter's shadow even healed people.....Acts 5:15-16</li> <li>2. Paul &amp; Barnabas worked signs &amp; wonders.....Acts 14:3</li> <li>3. Paul's handkerchief worked miracles .....Acts 19:11-12</li> <li>4. Paul healed everyone on Malta .....Acts 28:9</li> <li>5. Stephen performed “great wonders &amp; signs” .....Acts 6:8</li> <li>6. Philip did healings, signs, and miracles.....Acts 8:6-13</li> <li>7. Paul was bitten by a viper on Malta with no affect. This seemed to directly address Mark 16:18.....Acts 28:3-6</li> </ol> </li> <li>• BUT these healings, signs &amp; wonders eventually ceased as predicted in 1Cor 13:8-13, &amp; confirmed in other epistles</li> </ul>
16:19,20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The word was being “confirmed” – Present Tense. How? Through signs &amp; wonders, healings &amp; miracles</li> <li>• Heb 2:3,4 depicts in aorist &amp; parenthetical present tenses (respectively) that the Word of God had been confirmed by those who had gone before (Apostles and early disciples) with divers signs &amp; miracles.</li> <li>• So even before the writer of Hebrews penned his book, it looks like the Holy Spirit chose to allow the “signs” to be replaced with the confirmed Word of God.</li> </ul>

**HISTORICAL CONSIDERATION**

- Mark, Acts, Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, and Galatians were written before the 60's, so the "signs" could have been still going on during the writing of those books. Later epistles of the NT were written in the 60's to 90's. The later epistles do not mention the miracles depicted in Acts through Galatians, but instead highlighted chronic illnesses:
  - ♦ Paul couldn't heal Epaphroditus, but had to rely on God's mercy to restore his life .....Phil 2:25-27
  - ♦ Paul didn't tell Timothy to seek out those with the gifts of healings or miracles, but told him to take some medicine (drink a little wine) for his stomach problem & other “frequent illnesses” ..... 1Tim 5:23
  - ♦ Paul had to leave Trophimus sick in Miletum ..... 2Tim 4:20
  - ♦ James didn't tell the sick to find someone with the gifts of healings or miracles, but to have the Elders pray for them and to confess any sin so they would receive a healing ..... James 5:13-16

**NEXT WEEK: 1Timothy 1.** We cannot do justice to the teachings of 1Timothy without considering this unique soldier of the cross. If Timothy was in our church today, I believe we would recognize him as someone who is down to earth, a trustworthy man of God, someone we would rely on to handle difficult church situations appropriately, and he would do anything to save anyone and everyone from Hell.

