

“Repent and Believe”  
Mark 1:14-15  
(Preached at Trinity, June 10, 2009)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Up to this point we’ve been looking at preparatory matters leading up to the beginning of our Lord’s ministry. John the Baptist came preparing the way for Christ and then performed His baptism. It was at this time that the Holy Spirit descended equipping Jesus for His public ministry. Immediately after His baptism Jesus departed into the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days seeking guidance from His heavenly Father. At the end of the 40 days He was tempted of Satan. Jesus resisted every temptation and Satan departed for a season.
2. In these verses we find the beginning of Christ’s Galilean ministry. It is not surprising that His ministry began with the preaching of the Gospel. This was to be God’s method of saving His people. John the Baptist came preaching, Jesus came preaching, the apostles came preaching.
  - A. Paul’s unchanging advice to his young protégé, Timothy  
**2 Timothy 4:2** – “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”
  - B. To the church of Corinth Paul wrote:  
**1 Corinthians 1:21** – “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
3. Jesus came preaching the Gospel. We’ve already seen the nature of the Gospel in **V. 1**. It is the proclamation about Jesus: His life, death, and resurrection. Jesus proclaimed the Gospel but He also *was* the Gospel.
4. This is the only time Mark refers to the Gospel as the “Gospel of God.”
  - A. The KJV/TR adds the word “kingdom” which is consistent with **Verse 15**
  - B. Paul also sometimes referred to the Gospel as the “Gospel of God.”  
**Romans 1:1** – “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,”
  - C. Mark isn’t saying that the Gospel is about God but that the Gospel is *from* God
    1. The Gospel finds its source in God – it is rooted in God’s eternal purpose
    2. God is the Author of all things. All things exist by God. All things move by God. Paul preached in Athens:  
**Acts 17:28** – “For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.”
    3. The Gospel is God’s plan of reconciling sinners  
**2 Corinthians 5:18-19** – “And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

5. By referring to the “Kingdom of God” in **Verse 15** Mark was recognizing the authority of God. The Gospel begins with God’s rule, His Law, and that we have broken His Law.
- A. Entering the Kingdom is the essence of Christian salvation. It is the essence of reconciliation. To be saved is to leave the power of darkness and enter the Kingdom of God’s dear Son.  
**Colossians 1:13** – “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:”
- B. There has never been a kingdom like this Kingdom. To enter this Kingdom is the greatest blessing.
6. The greatest question a person can ask is how he or she can enter this Kingdom. The demands are absolute, non-negotiable. These demands are no secret. They have been clearly presented for almost 2000 years.  
 Jesus make them clear here at the very beginning of His ministry.  
**Mark 1:15** – “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”
7. The demands are clear – “Repent and believe the Gospel” - repentance and faith. There no other way. We must be clear about these demands.  
 Are you clear on these demands?
- I. What is it to repent? We’ve heard this word thousands of time. Most modern church people are unclear what it means.
- A. What is repentance?
1. First we have to understand, repentance is a gift from God – God must grant us repentance  
 Repentance is entirely a work of God’s grace
  2. There must be a complete admission of our guilt before God – true confession of sin  
**Psalm 32:5** – “I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.”  
**Psalm 51:3** – “For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me.”
    - a. Part of the blindness of the lost man is that he does not see the severity of his sin  
**1 John 1:8** – “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
    - b. This is why a careful application of the Law is an essential part of the Gospel message.
    - c. We have to be hopelessly lost before we can be saved – the problem with Roman Catholicism
    - d. Forgiveness will only follow true confession  
**1 John 1:8** – “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
  3. Repentance is a godly sorrow for sin
    - a. We come to an understanding that we have offended God

- b. Our sorrow is not just a sorrow because we have been exposed and are subject to God's wrath but a sorrow because we have offended the God that has been so good and merciful to us
- (1) This understanding of God's goodness leads us to repentance  
**Romans 2:4** – "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"
  - (2) God changes our heart so that we now love Him
4. Repentance is a godly hatred of sin – repentance is a change of mind concerning sin.  
 We used to love our sin – now we hate it
- B. Repentance is a complete turning from our sin and forsaking it.
1. The sinner must see Jesus as more precious than his sin  
 He must be willing to give up his sin
  2. This is the problem for most – they don't want to part with their sin  
 They don't see Jesus as the most wonderful thing in their life.
  3. Illus: the man at the door on Tuesday – "I want Jesus!"  
The Rich Young Ruler
- C. We must be clear, Repentance is absolutely essential for salvation  
 Peter preached: **Acts 3:19** – "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"  
**Acts 2:38** – "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."  
 Repentance is commanded of all men  
**Acts 17:30** – ". . . now commandeth all men every where to repent:
- D. True repentance is always demonstrated by a changed life – a life of righteousness and true holiness  
**Matthew 3:7-8** – "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:"  
**Acts 26:19-20** – "Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: <sup>20</sup> But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and *then* to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance."
1. True repentance will only come forth from a change of heart.  
**Ephesians 4:24** – "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."
  2. This is sorely misunderstood today. Without a change of heart there is no salvation.

- II. We must believe. Belief is the same thing as faith.  
 πιστεύω is the verbal form of the word translated faith.
- A. Faith is essential for salvation  
**Acts 16:31** – “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”
1. This faith is a work of God in the heart of sinners  
**2 Thessalonians 2:13** – “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”  
 This is another way of saying God must grant us faith
  2. Faith and repentance are inseparable – one cannot exist without the other  
**Mark 1:15** – “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”
- B. Saving faith begins with knowledge  
 A knowledge of God, His holiness, His Law, His demand of perfect obedience, our guilt and just condemnation, the glory of the cross.
1. The Bible refers to this knowledge as “the knowledge of the truth”  
**1 Timothy 2:4** – “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”  
**2 Timothy 3:7** – “Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
  2. This is another way to say we have been enlightened unto salvation
  3. Saving faith demands this knowledge.
- C. Satan has the world blinded to this Gospel truth  
**2 Timothy 2:25-26** – “In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; <sup>26</sup> And *that* they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”
1. “that they may recover themselves” comes from a single Greek word ἀνανήψω – to come to their senses
  2. God must enable us to come to our senses that we might escape Satan’s blinding deception  
**John 8:32** – “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
  3. Remember, Satan has blinded the eyes of the lost – they are deceived  
**2 Corinthians 4:3** – “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”
    - a. The lost man is like a man in a drunken stupor – he can’t think clearly, can’t be reasoned with
    - b. The lost man is content in his blind corruption – in fact he loves it

- c. God must powerfully seize us from this state of delusion  
This is precisely what Christ has done – He has plundered Satan’s kingdom
- D. This knowledge is not human wisdom.
  - 1. God has saved men and women with only a child like mind
  - 2. It isn’t worldly wisdom or knowledge that saves us  
**1 Corinthians 1:20-21** – “Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? <sup>21</sup> For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
  - 3. It is a simple understanding of the cross. But the cross will make no sense without an understanding of sin
- E. We must own the truth of the Gospel as our own
  - 1. We must rest in Christ alone
  - 2. This can only come by a work of God in the hearts of men.

#### Conclusion:

- 1. The only hope for the lost sinner is to repent and trust in Christ
- 2. Those who trust Him love Him  
Those who love Him hate their sin because it is displeasing to Him  
**2 Corinthians 7:10** – “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”
- 3. Since God’s Kingdom is a righteous Kingdom only the righteous shall enter it. It cannot be entered, however, through human effort.
  - A. It must be entered through a transformation.  
**John 3:3** – “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
  - B. Entering this Kingdom demands absolute commitment to the King  
**Luke 9:62** – “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
  - C. The Kingdom can only be entered through the Lord Jesus Christ
    - 1. It is Jesus alone who kept the Law of God perfectly qualifying Himself as the spotless Lamb of God
    - 2. It is Jesus alone whose sacrifice upon the cross nullified the damning effect of sin
    - 3. It is Jesus alone who sits upon the throne as our Mediator
- 4. Faith and repentance is all from God – it is by His grace  
But God invites all to come and receive.  
*Come ye sinners, poor and needy, Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you, Full of pity, love and power.  
Come ye needy, come and welcome, God’s free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance, Every grace that brings you nigh*