

Mark 1:1–8

## The Good News of the One Whose Baptizing Actually Saves

### Monday, July 25, 2022 • Read Mark 1:1–8

*Questions from the Scripture text: Of what is this a beginning (v1)? Of whose gospel, in particular, is it the beginning—what three things is He called? Where had the next couple verses been written originally (v2)? What would the Lord send before the Christ's face? What is the messenger doing? Whose way, specifically, was the messenger to prepare (v3)? What two things did John come doing (v4)? What did his baptism promise? How effective was this preaching (v5)? How impressive was John (v6)? Whom did he say would be far more impressive (v17)? What baptism would He give to truly accomplish what John's could only point forward to?*

**What is the gospel good news about, and how does baptism display it?** Mark 1:1–8 corresponds to Peter's memory in Ac 11:15–18 of our sermon text on the coming Lord's Day (no midweek sermon this week, as Pastor will be at FBC). In these eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Christ Himself pours out His Holy Spirit upon us to give us union with Christ Himself and all His benefits.**

In the Scripture for this week's sermon, we learn immediately what kind of writing Mark has written. It is a gospel. It is good news. And it is good news about Jesus, whose name means, "the Lord saves." And it is good news about the Christ, which is a title that means, "anointed One." And it is good news about the Son of God, which means that here is One who is not created by God, but rather begotten of God—One who is very God of very God... One who is God Himself.

This is good news about how the Lord God became a man that He might save us as the anointed One. Such an One about whom we need to hear such news deserves someone to announce that He is here. And that's what the Baptizer was doing. He was preparing the way for the Savior by announcing what it was from which we need saving: our sins. That is to say that He preached repentance.

The Baptizer announced repentance, but it couldn't take away sin. Have you ever even tried just to stop sinning? We can't. Not in this life. And not at all on our own. In repentance, we recognize sin for what it is, and determine our whole selves against it. Repentance includes feeling sorry against our sin, but it is much more than sorry-feeling. It's also declaration of war! But still, there are sin's guilt and sin's power that against us.

What's the good news (gospel)? That there is remission of sin—the canceling of sin from our account with God. And it's the gospel of Jesus Christ because He doesn't just wash us with water as a sign that this canceling of sin can happen. No, Jesus Christ washes us with His own Holy Spirit. This is why Christian water-baptism is different from John's water-baptism (cf. Ac 19:1–7).

By His Spirit, Christ actually cleanses us. The Holy Spirit unites us, through faith, to Jesus Christ.

Christ's death becomes ours, satisfying for the guilt of our sin.

Christ's obedience becomes ours, earning every possible blessing for us.

Christ's status becomes ours, bringing us into our adoption as God's children.

Christ's life becomes ours, so that the life live, we live by faith in the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Christ's Spirit, Whom He has poured upon us, works all of this in our lives (cf. Gal 3:26–27; Rom 6:1–4, 8:3–17)!

Who is the Holy Spirit? Who gives Him to sinners? To which ones? What does He do in their lives?

*Sample prayer: Lord Jesus, the best news that we have ever heard is that You have saved sinners, and that You Yourself apply this salvation by Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for helping our weakness by giving us baptism with water to assure us of Your baptizing by Your Spirit. Please use Your Word and Your sacrament by Your Spirit to stir up our faith in You, we ask in Your own Name, AMEN!!*

Suggested songs: ARP51AB "God, Be Merciful to Me" or TPH392 "Holy Ghost, Dispel Our Sadness"

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Mark 1 versus 1 through 8. These are God's words. The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God as it has written in the prophets. Behold. I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before? You the voice of one crying in the wilderness.

Prepare the way of the Lord make his paths. Straight John came, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching. A baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, then all the land of Judea and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and we're all baptized by him in the Jordan River.

Confessing their sins. Now, John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached saying there comes one after me. Who is mightier than I who sandal strap. I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.

I indeed, baptized you with water but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

So far the reading of God's inspired in an errant word Mark lets us know what his book is to be received as what kind of writing it is right from the first words of his book, It's the shortest Gospel. It's the fastest paced gospel and you get straight to the point.

He says the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ that this book is to be read as good news and it's reread as good news. Not of what we can do but it's good news that Jesus is the Christ. The Son of God, it's good news that the Lord God became a man that he might be the anointed one through whom God saves his people.

That's what the baptizer was doing. He was preparing the way for God, the Son, the Christ, who was coming to save his people. And so, it says, John came baptizing in the wilderness, but you probably noticed that in connection with the morning sermon this week. They didn't just come baptizing in the wilderness.

He came preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. So, his preaching that we needed to be cleansed, it is preaching that we needed to turn from our sin, and he was preaching that those who turned from their sin will be forgiven for their sin. And this is how he preached it.

He says he preached verse 7, there comes one. After me, who is mightier than I? And then he says, basically which is a massive understatement who's sandal strap. I am not worthy just dupe down and loose. So, he's not like, I'm pretty mighty preacher, but the one who's coming is even mightier than I am?

No, he's saying the one who is coming is able to do what my baptism says. We need, I preach a baptism of needed repentance. And that everyone who repents from his sin will be forgiven for his sin. The problem is that John's preaching. Can't give them repentance and John's pouring which we know that that's what it

was from verse 8 can't give them repentance.

That was the one for whom. John was preparing that could give them the repentance, They needed repentance that couldn't give it to themselves. John was pouring water. That said they needed it and yet he said the water itself says, don't hope in me or what has happened here at the Jordan.

Hope in the one who is coming after me because I indeed baptized you with water. Could that wash away? Their sin can water wash away sin. Sophia, of course not. But he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. And so, yes, Mark is gonna tell all about how Jesus came and he announced the coming of the kingdom and he himself died, a sacrificial, death and poor God's wrath for our sin.

He came to seek and to save that which was lost and he fulfilled his mission. He saved us and he rose again from the dead. He's in a marketing to tell us all about that. But even from the beginning of the gospel of Mark, part of the good news that he's preaching, is that the Jesus, who accomplished our redemption in his life and death.

And resurrection applies that redemption by pouring out his Holy Spirit by giving us the repentance that we need and the faith that corresponds to it. Repentance. The turning from the sin faith, the turning to Jesus, both always happen simultaneously in the person. Although it's only through faith and not repentance.

Only through faith that you are joined to Jesus. And that everyone who receives this repentance. That always has this faith with it who receives this repentance in this faith, that they are forgiven of their sentence because they receive it from Jesus by His Spirit. And the same Jesus who has paid for our sin and earned our heaven.

So that when he baptizes with his Spirit, He makes you alive to give you faith to trust in him to give your repentance to turn from your sin and that's good news. The good news is not what we can do. The good news is what Jesus has done and what he is doing and what he will do in the last day when he returns us the judge and acquits declares not guilty and pronounce as the sentence of perfect blessedness forever upon the not guilty ones.

It's the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Son of God, It is the news that makes all other news. Good for you. If you have Christ and that if you don't have Christ, then there is no other good news. Everything else is bad news for you If you don't have Christ.

But praise God. This is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen. Let's pray, Lord. Thank you that. On this Lord's day you have given for me and for my family to come together and to worship you in the end of the day. In this portion of your word and would you have announced to us the good news of your son?

It has taken upon himself, our sin, and has absorbed all the wrath endured all the wrath that we deserved so that you are entirely propitious favorable towards us because he has taken all of the disfavor, the curse. Well, no, thank you that he who has done. This is still working.

It's still baptizing pouring out his spirit who is able actually to wash our sins away by giving us faith in Jesus. And so we pray that you would continue to work in us by your spirit, to stir up and strengthen and grow. Our faith in Christ that we would grow by the grace of Christ.

And the knowing of Christ, that your spirit gives us, keep giving us more faith. Keep giving us more repentance. We pray. Thank you. That we know that you have already given us completely forgiveness of sins and finish that work that you've begun by your spirit by the same work of the same Spirit for.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen