

The ending of Mark 16 (vs.9-20)

- ✓ Introduced in the King James version.
- ✓ The oldest MSS end the gospel at vs.8.
- ✓ The early church fathers never quote it.
- ✓ The vocabulary, style, & content seem to be out of harmony with the rest of Mark.

Mark's "missionary commission"

"15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."

The task - #1 Proclaim the Gospel

"Go" is an infinitive = "going"

**It's not where we go
so much as what we do.**

Matthew 28

"19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The task - #2 Make Disciples

Disciples are made by

1. **baptizing those who believe.**
2. **teaching them the way of God's kingdom.**

Mark's

Addition #1

"signs and wonders"

"17 And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

The means - #1 Holy Spirit

Luke 24

"⁴⁶ . . . Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending forth **the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**"

Acts 1:8

"but you shall receive power **when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

The means - #1 Holy Spirit

John 20

“²¹ . . . Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘**Receive the Holy Spirit.**’ ²³ ‘If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.’”

John 16:7

“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, **the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.**”

The means - #1 Holy Spirit

Signs following

✓ **Was this limited to the first century Apostles?**

“²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word **by the signs that followed.**”

“¹⁷ And these **signs will accompany those who have believed.**”

2 Corinthians 12:12

“The **signs of a true apostle** were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”

Signs following

- ✓ **Should this characterize all believers in every generation? Why or why not?**
- ✓ **Was this in any way related to the fact that there was no authorized New Testament Scripture at this time?**
- ✓ **Why was this not reiterated elsewhere? (Note the Apostle’s teaching)**

Ephesians 4:10-16

“¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for **the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;** . . . ¹⁵ but **speaking the truth in love,** we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the **proper working of each individual part,** causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself **in love.**”

The means - #2 Body of Christ

- 1. team ministry.*
- 2. contribution of different gifts.*
- 3. speaking truth in love.*

Ephesians 4:10-16

“¹³ until we all attain to the **unity of the faith,** and of the **knowledge of the Son of God,** to a **mature man,** to the measure of the stature which belongs to the **fullness of Christ.** ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in **all aspects into Him,** who is the head, even Christ,”

The goal - Fullness of Christ

- 1. unity of faith.*
- 2. intimate knowledge of Christ.*
- 3. spiritual maturity in all aspects of life.*

Mark’s

Addition #2

“the Acts of the early church”

“¹⁹ So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed. And they promptly reported all these instructions to Peter and his companions. And after that, Jesus Himself sent out through them from east to west the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.”

This is why some believe the signs were for the Apostolic age in that there was no N.T.

Mark 1:1

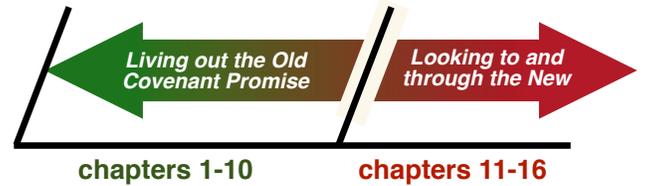
“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

- ✓ The Gospel is not just about Jesus' earthly life.
- ✓ It is as though the book ends with a comma.
- ✓ What does this suggest to us?

Jesus is alive in his church and living through Christ's Spirit given to his people.

Mark

“A passion narrative with a long prologue and even longer postscript.”



New Heaven & Earth

Acts & Epistles



Old Testament

First Heaven & Earth

As the Body of Christ we now have the baton of the Kingdom.



Our calling is to run with it.

What should we expect?

- ✓ This is **not the only mandate** that believers are called to live out.
- ✓ The responsibility is to proclaim the Gospel (make disciples) **not to perform or reform.**
- ✓ The rest of the New Testament unpacks the details of what this means.
- ✓ The power of the Holy Spirit is Christ's presence with us as witnesses.
- ✓ Hope that looks beyond this life. **Not temporal blessings & reform.**
- ✓ Encouragement through hard times. **Not escape from all hardship.**
- ✓ Power to respond to life by developing and demonstrating Godly character. **Not always signs and wonders.**
- ✓ Faithful & bold witness to the Gospel. **Not always positive results.**

Example from Jesus on being IN but not OF the world.

Disciple's are trusted stewards and anointed ambassadors of a unique Gospel.