

Three critical issues in the Christian's relationship with this world.

- 1. Essence of the Gospel.**
- 2. Expectations in life.**
- 3. Exercise of power.**

Three critical issues in the Christian's relationship with this world.

1. Essence of the Gospel.

Is it Jesus' life or his death and resurrection that are the essence of the Christian Gospel?

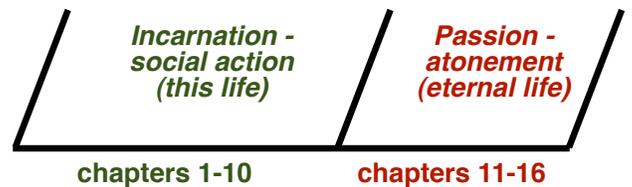


Mark 10

³² And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking on ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were fearful. And again He took the twelve aside and began to tell them what was going to happen to Him, ³³ saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and will deliver Him to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And they will mock Him and spit upon Him, and scourge Him, and kill Him, and three days later He will rise again."

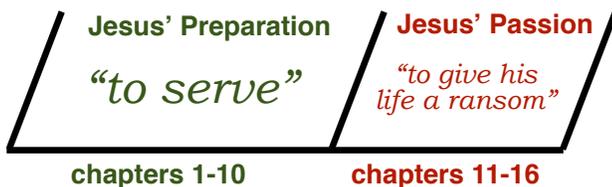
Mark

What is the significance of Jesus and the essence of the Gospel?



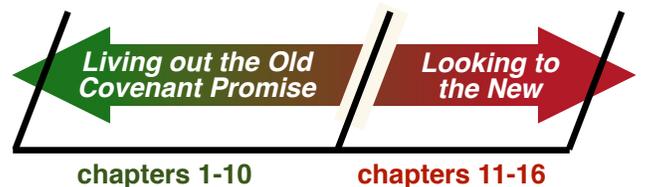
Mark 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."



Mark

"A passion narrative with a long prologue"



Fulton J. Sheen



“Of all the religious leaders in history Jesus was unique in that he alone came for the purpose of dying.”

The emphasis of the Gospels

The Passion and Resurrection

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Gospels

The Passion and Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

The emphasis of the Epistles

Epistles

The great symbols of the faith are NOT



The Law



The Towel and Basin



A Crown

reminding us of the life of Jesus

The great symbols of the faith ARE



The Cross



The Lord's Supper



Baptism

reminding us of the death and resurrection of Jesus

Mark 1:1

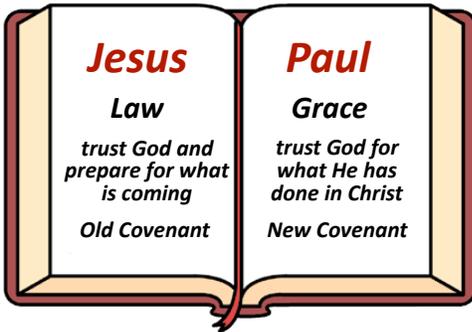
“The **beginning** of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

The Full Gospel

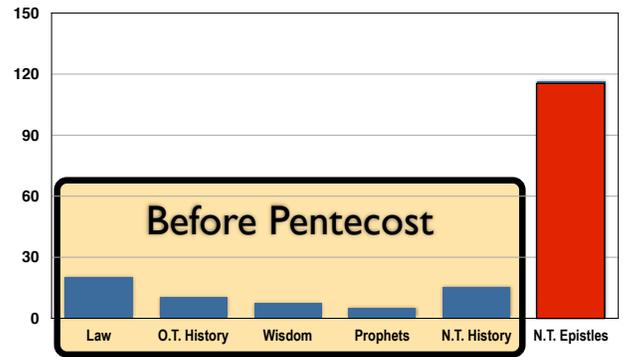
- **Begins** with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- **Continues** with the Acts of the Holy Spirit and the revelation through the Apostles.

How are we to understand Jesus' Gospel in light of Paul's?

At face value they have different emphases in their mission and message.



Distribution of references to the word "grace" in the various divisions of the Scripture



How are we to be in the world?

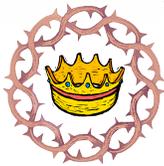
Life and teaching of Jesus



Crucifixion & resurrection



Social Renewal
Kingdom Ethics
This world
Jesus is reigning King



Spiritual Redemption
Personal Holiness
Heaven
Jesus is suffering Servant

Christianity that does not start with the individual, does not start.

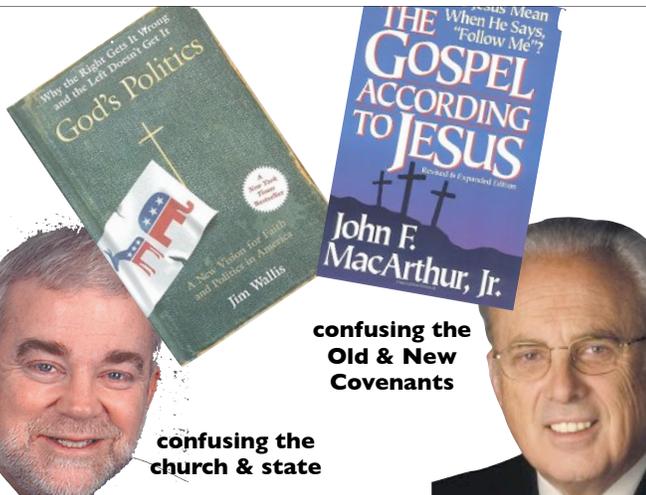
Christianity that ends with the individual, ends.



This



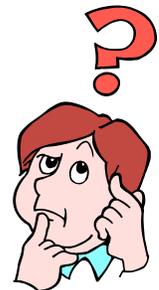
Not this



Three critical issues in the Christian's relationship with this world.

1. Essence of the Gospel.
2. Expectations in life.

Is this life to be more like heaven or more like hell?



“³⁵ And James and John, the two sons of Zebedee, came up to Him, saying to Him, “Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask of You.” ³⁶ And He said to them, “What do you want Me to do for you?” ³⁷ And they said to Him, “Grant that we may sit in Your glory, one on Your right, and one on Your left.” ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” ³⁹ And they said to Him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “**The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized.**” ⁴⁰ But to sit on My right or on My left, this is not Mine to give; but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”



Mark 10:30

“. . . but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, . . . along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.”

Romans 8:18

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

1 Peter 4:12

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you:”

Peter was crucified head down.

Andrew was bound to death.

James, son of Zebedee, was beheaded. (Acts 12:1-9).

John was banished. (Rev. 1- 9).

Phillip was crucified.

Bartholomew was beaten, crucified, & beheaded.

Thomas was run through by a lance.

Matthew was slain by the sword.

James, son of Alphaeus, was beaten to death.

Thaddeus was shot to death by arrows.

Simon was crucified.

Judas Iscariot hung himself (Matt.27:3-10).

Matthias was martyred.

Paul was executed.

Three critical issues in the Christian’s relationship with this world.

1. **Essence of the Gospel.**

2. **Expectations in life.**

3. **Exercise of power.**

Are we masters or servants?



“⁴¹ And hearing this, the ten began to feel indignant with James and John. ⁴² And calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, “**You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great men exercise authority over them.**” ⁴³ But it is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.””

**Look at the kind of people
Jesus “hand picks”
to do his work.**

- ✓ the cultural elite?
- ✓ the socially connected?
- ✓ the professionally trained?

1 Corinthians 1

“26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, 29 that no man should boast before God.”

What is “over the line”?

- ✓ Disrespect for the priesthood of believers in church, & family.
- ✓ Micro-managing, marginalizing, misrepresenting, and manipulating, others with guilt and fear.
- ✓ Exploiting others for selfish gain - “fleecing the sheep.”
- ✓ Slow to listen, quick to speak, and quick to anger.

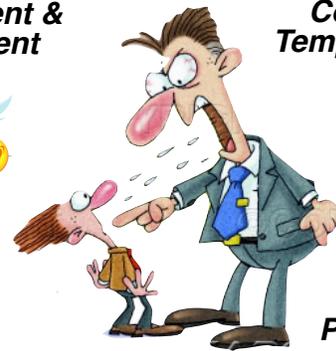
The perfect storm for abuse

***Culture of
Entitlement &
Enablement***

***Controlling
Temperament***



***Inner
Insecurity***



***Position of
Authority***

How do disciples lead?

- ✓ Respecting the image of God and Holy Spirit in every believer.
- ✓ Speaking the truth in love through grace, not guilt or fear.
- ✓ Sacrificing personal interest from a position of strength and security.
- ✓ Being quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

**Example
of Jesus being IN but not OF
the world.**

**Disciples of Jesus are
disciples of the Cross,
allowing it to shape their
faith, hope, love, and
ministry.**