

# THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

## MARK 1:1-8

Interim Teaching Elder/Pastor Joe Bennett ■ Grace Bible Church ■ May 25, 2025

“Semper Reformanda” = \_\_\_\_\_

### The Gospel According to Mark:

- 1) God is \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
- 2) I am \_\_\_\_\_. (2-6)
- 3) Jesus \_\_\_\_\_. (7-8)
- 4) Christ is \_\_\_\_\_. (8, 1)

### Pastoral Challenge:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ the entire book of Mark. (1.5 hrs)
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ and reflect on the upcoming sermon text each week. (15 mins)
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ the sermon Application Questions each week. (15 mins)
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ each week to know Jesus more deeply through studying Mark.
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ someone to know and follow Jesus with you.

### Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” <sup>4</sup> John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.” <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are for further study and application of today's text of Scripture. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. One of the best ways to grow as a disciple is by discussing these types of questions in a small group. Find a small group here: [gracebiblecw.com/lifegroup](http://gracebiblecw.com/lifegroup) or ask someone next to you if you can join their group!*

1. **Read Mark 1:1.** What are the implications of Jesus' title "Christ" in the lives of His followers? What are the implications of His being "the Son of God"? What does this opening thesis sentence tell us about the purpose of Mark's book?
2. **Read Mark 1:2-3.** How did John the Baptist "prepare the way" for Jesus? (hint: reading Mark 1:4-5 will help you answer).
3. **Read Mark 1:4-7.** How do John and his preaching style compare with current notions of how to gain a following and grow a church? What can we learn from this?
4. **Read Mark 1:7-8.** How is John's humble message about Christ similar to what we should tell others about Christ? How is our message different?
5. What Bible verses can you think of that support the idea of "semper reformanda"? How does the idea of "semper reformanda" challenge you in your spiritual growth?
6. The line from a member covenant quoted in the sermon said: *We will pursue transparency with each other, resisting the temptation to hide our struggles and sins, that we might experience the grace of God in the care of his saints. (Rom. 15:7; 1 John 1:6–10; James 5:16)*<sup>1</sup> What would it look like to intentionally and regularly apply this in your life (and your small group)?
7. Read through the 5 "pastoral challenges" above. Which of these challenges will you make an intentional plan to carry out? Share those plans with the group.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rivercityrichmond.org/beliefs>