

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS

March 10, 2024

TEXT—Mark 1:1-11

MAIN IDEA—The Gospel of Jesus Christ was given so that we might believe and experience eternal life by grace through faith in Christ alone.

MEMORY VERSE—John 20:31

John MacArthur—*In the New Testament it points to the good news of salvation: Jesus Christ came to earth to abolish the power of sin in the lives of His people by offering Himself as a perfect sacrifice on the Cross. Christ commands believers to share this Good News with the rest of the world. This Good News is Christ's life-giving message to a dying world (Mk. 16:15).*

THE PROPHECY GIVEN (Mark 1:2-3)—Matthew and Luke begin their Gospel narratives with the events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ, John speaks of Christ's existence from eternity (Jn. 1:1), but Mark begins his narrative with the prophecy about the messenger who would prepare the way for Christ's coming. Mark reveals that God's plan of salvation in Christ is the fulfillment of God's prophetic word given in the OT.

Mal. 3:1; Is. 40:3

Prov. 30:5; Mt. 24:35

THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (Mark 1:4-8)—John the Baptist was the messenger appointed by God to prepare the way for the Messiah. This preparation would be accomplished through John's prophetic ministry of preaching and baptizing.

*True Repentance is a gracious work of God involving a transformation in one's nature. To truly repent is to turn from sin and self to God [**1 Thess. 1:9**]. The fruit of true repentance is seen in changed behavior [**Lk. 3:7-8**].

Today in Christian Baptism we are baptized: as the initial sign and symbol of our faith in Jesus Christ as LORD (**Acts 2:38**); in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to obey Jesus (**Matt. 28:19-20**); to represent our union with Christ's death and resurrection through the waters of baptism (**Rom. 6:1-3**); and to make a public statement of our faith in Jesus Christ (**Acts 16:15**).

2 Kings 1:8

*John's Message exalted the Messiah and denied himself **(See V7)**.

Gal. 2:20

*John's Message was a message of Judgment that called people to repentance in order to get ready for the coming Messiah.

Matt. 3:7-12

*John's message also proclaimed the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which every true Christian, without exception, would experience in the new birth-**V8**

1 Cor. 12:12-13

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST (Mark 1:9-11)—Though John preached a baptism of repentance from sin, Jesus the spotless Lamb of God **(John 1:29)** came to be baptized by John. This happened at God's appointed time to fulfill God's plan of salvation and reveal that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God.

John 1:29-31

Matt. 3:14-15

William MacDonald—*Baptism for Him was a ritual symbolizing the way in which He would fulfill all the righteous claims of God against man's sin. His immersion typified His baptism in the waters of God's judgment at Calvary. His emergence from the water foreshadowed His resurrection. By death, burial, and resurrection, He would satisfy the demands of divine justice and provide a righteous basis by which sinners could be justified.*

John 1:32-34

John 20:31