

Proclaim the Gospel; Mark 16:14-16

1. The written word.
 - a. History.
 - i. How do we know anything about history?
 1. Was there a war started by the colonists rebelling against England over taxation without representation?
 2. Who won the American Revolution?
 3. Granted, we have an established country as evidence, but that is not proof of the Revolutionary War.
 - ii. We have history books that establish the facts surrounding our history.
 1. “History is written by the victors, so it is prone to error.”
 2. There will always be people in the same century who will identify and expose the error.
 - b. Mark 16:9-20 should have some note in most of your Bibles.
 - i. The ESV has a note that says, “[Some of the earliest manuscripts do not include 16:9-20.]”
 - ii. “Some manuscripts end the book with 16:8; others include verses 9–20 immediately after verse 8. At least one manuscript inserts additional material after verse 14; some manuscripts include after verse 8 the following: But they reported briefly to Peter and those with him all that they had been told. And after this, Jesus himself sent out by means of them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. These manuscripts then continue with verses 9–20.”¹
 - iii. “I am committed to inspired Apostolic writings as the true word of God, the only source for faith and practice. However, these verses are not inspired, possibly even heretical (drinking poison, handling snakes). I refuse to comment on them!”²
 - iv. Mr. Utley would have us believe that Mark ended his Gospel with verse 8.
 - v. Mark 16:8: “And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”
 - vi. There are six significant Greek manuscripts of the New Testament.
 1. The earliest manuscripts were completed around 350 AD.
 2. The rest between the 5th and 6th centuries.
 3. They were completed 250-450 years from the actual events.
 4. Almost 2000 years later, some people are trying to rewrite history.
 - vii. Matthew’s Gospel ends similarly to Mark’s.
 - viii. Matthew 28:19–20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
 - ix. All Scripture is God-breathed!
2. Proclaim.
 - a. “Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel.”
 - i. ‘Go’ is a passive participle, whereas ‘proclaim’ is an active imperative.

¹ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016).

² Robert James Dr. Utley, *The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter*, vol. Volume 2, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 205.

- ii. The action in this sentence is proclaiming the Gospel, not going into ‘all the world.’
 - iii. The emphasis is on proclaiming the Gospel, not going to foreign countries.
 - iv. Jesus tells his eleven apostles to start right where they live.
 - v. Acts 1:8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
 - vi. And when the persecution in Jerusalem gets terrible, the disciples leave, but the apostles stay.
 - vii. Acts 8:1–3: “And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.”
 - b. We spend a lot of time and money training people to be missionaries and sending them to foreign countries.
 - i. I am not against sending people to foreign countries to “proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation.”
 - ii. I am a proponent of sending people out into the communities where they live and sharing (proclaiming) the Gospel with their neighbors.
 - 1. Cornelius and Peter have visions from God.
 - 2. Acts 10:24: “And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.”
 - 3. Paul finds women at a place of prayer outside the gates of Philippi.
 - 4. Acts 16:14–15: “One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.”
 - 5. A jailer includes his family when he meets with Paul.
 - 6. Acts 16:33–34: “And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.”
 - 7. If I knock on someone’s door and attempt to share the Gospel, I will likely get a polite “No thank you.”
 - 8. If I converse over the back fence with my neighbor who knows me and my manner of life, there might be more interest in the Gospel.
 - iii. Just as Jesus told the apostles to start in Jerusalem, we should share the Gospel starting in our communities.
 - c. As you are going, share the Gospel.
3. Salvation.
- a. Paul tells us what is “of first importance” concerning the Gospel.
 - b. Jesus died for our sins.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 15:1–3: “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I

- delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,”
- ii. Jesus lived His entire life without sin.
 - iii. Jesus was God incarnate (in human form).
 - iv. Jesus was completely human.
 - 1. He was born as all people are, through a woman (Matthew 1:25)
 - 2. He experienced hunger (Matthew 21:18).
 - 3. He experienced thirst (John 19:28).
 - 4. He experienced temptation (Matthew 4:1).
 - 5. He experienced pain and suffering (Matthew 16:21).
 - 6. He died (Matthew 27:50).
 - 7. This makes his sacrifice acceptable to forgive sins once - for all sins, all people, and all time.
 - 8. Hebrews 7:27: “He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.”
 - 9. Hebrews 9:26: “for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”
 - 10. Hebrews 10:10: “And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”
 - c. Jesus was buried and raised.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 15:4: “that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,”
 - ii. Jesus’ resurrection is key to the Gospel.
 - iii. There is no resurrection without death.
 - iv. John 10:14–18: “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”
 - v. There is no new covenant without death (Hebrews 9:16).
 - vi. The resurrected Jesus is the foundation of our hope.
 - d. The resurrected Jesus appeared to many people.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 15:5–8: “and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.”
 - ii. I often think about those who stood outside Lazarus’ tomb.
 - 1. To see a man who had died, been prepared for burial, then buried in a tomb rise 4 days later must have been mind-boggling!
 - 2. John 11:45: “Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,”
 - iii. Thomas’ reaction to the resurrected Jesus is awe-inspiring, “My Lord and my God!”

- e. What about us who have not seen the resurrected Jesus?
 - i. John 20:29: “Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
 - ii. We have ample evidence (and eyewitness accounts) to prove that Jesus is the Messiah, that He died for our sins, was buried and resurrected, and appeared to many.
 - iii. The written word.
- 4. Response.
 - a. What is our response to the evidence presented?
 - b. Mark 16:15–16: “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”
 - c. Acts 2:37–38: “Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”