

MARK'S ABRUPT ENDING

--MARK 16:9-20--

INTRODUCTION:

This morning's message will be a little different from how I usually preach. The reason is due to the final verses of Mark's Gospel, which we must decide why these verses are here, are they the inspired word of God, are they Mark's words and if they are not why are they tacked onto the end of his Gospel. We will explore all of this this morning and also look at the reliability of our copies of the Bible.

I. RELIABILITY OF SCRIPTURE

- a. This final section of verses that I just read is missing from the most reliable, ancient _____ that we have of Mark's Gospel.
- b. No ancient book has been better _____ throughout history than the Bible.
- c. Ancient Greek manuscripts of the _____ Testament number more than five thousand.
- d. Because we have so many manuscripts the science of textual criticism came about which analyzes and compares ancient biblical _____ to determine the contents of the original works (autographs).

II. EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL EVIDENCE

- a. When we look at the external evidence, the earliest and most _____ New Testament manuscripts do not have verses 9-20.
- b. Evidence from church history and the church _____ also points to the verses not being authentic.
- c. When we begin to look at the _____ evidence from the verses themselves, there are several things that cast doubt on the authenticity of the passage being a part of Mark's gospel.
- d. The vocabulary, _____, and structure of the longer ending is not consistent with the rest of Mark's gospel.

- e. The inclusion of apostolic _____ does not fit the way the other three gospels conclude their accounts of the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ.
- f. Both the external and the internal _____ clearly show us that verses 9-20 are not originally part of Mark, nor were they penned from his hand.
- g. Knowing that Mark 16:9-20 is not original should give us as believers _____ confidence in the accuracy of the New Testament, not less.

III. WHERE DID THE ENDING COME FROM (Mark 16:9-20)

- a. Because Mark's gospel ends abruptly in verse 8, some early Christians must have felt that Mark's Gospel was _____.
- b. Because of this summarizing and borrowing Mark 16:9-20 is a patchwork drawn from various _____ Testament texts.

IV. MARK'S ABRUPT ENDING (Mark 16:8)

- a. Most biblical scholars agree that verses 9-20 are not _____ to Mark's gospel.
- b. Mark uses four descriptive statements to describe the intense trauma these _____ experienced early Sunday morning.
- c. Mark's ending to his gospel is _____, but it is not incomplete. (Mark 15:39)
- d. Verse 8 ends by stating that the women fleeing from the empty tomb were _____.
- e. Mark's gospel then, ends on a note of wonder, awe, and _____ about the Lord Jesus Christ. This same theme runs all the way through Mark's gospel account. (Mark 1:22, 27; 2:12; 4:41; 5:15, 33, 42; 6:51; 9:6, 15, 32; 10:24, 32; 11:18; 12:17; 15:5; 16:5, 8)

CONCLUSION:

Mark in writing his gospel account consistently highlighted key events in the life of the Lord Jesus by emphasizing the wonder He evoked in the hearts and minds of those who encountered Him. Mark throughout his account simply moves from one point of amazement about Christ to the next.

With that in mind, the gospel ends where it ought to end. It climaxes with amazement and bewilderment at the resurrection of the crucified Savior. By ending this way, it leaves the reader in a place of wonder, awe, and worship, centered on its glorious subject, the Lord Jesus, who is the Christ, the Son of God.