



*Somerset Christian Church*  
*(Disciples of Christ)*

*The*  
***Somerset***  
***Messenger***

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William Evans, Minister

**EVANGELISM:  
DOING IT!**

What does Evangelism mean to you? Sharing your faith with someone else? Making sure others are "saved?" Getting someone else to attend Church with you? Convicting another of their sinfulness?

Often Evangelism is seen as "getting people in the door and getting them to make the good confession" -- or, "saving souls." Salvation is the topic of Evangelism -- but we often misunderstand what the Bible means by salvation.

Biblically, salvation deals with deliverance -- not just deliverance from

guilt as is often thought, but deliverance from actual sins. When we place our confidence and faith in the person of Jesus, we gain a new life in God's Kingdom. Our sins have been forgiven, true, but we still have to live every day in the world and we are tempted to continue to sin. Not only do we need forgiveness, but we need help in facing every day of our lives. We need to not only be saved, but to become Disciples -- living each day as Jesus would have us live.

A disciple is a person who chooses to live each and every day learning to do what Jesus said to do. This doesn't mean you know it all or even have everything in order in your life. Yet you are

changing your life, one step at a time, to carry through on your decision to follow Jesus.

Evangelism, therefore, is helping people become disciples. It means, among other things, encouraging others as they try to do what Jesus wants them to do.

The primary job of the Church is not evangelism, but rather, to be the dwelling place of God upon the earth. It is where we grow and learn to be disciples. Evangelism is way of showing others that we are the Church. We encourage them to put their confidence (their trust) in Jesus. When they do that, the next step is to live each day, trusting in what Jesus taught us to do.

This is where the Church comes in, for the fellowship of the Church is there to help one another grow in Christ.

What we call Evangelism is often no more than "soul-winning." In reality, Evangelism is more, much more, than that. It also involves nurturing, encouraging, teaching, and, when mistakes are made, tolerance and forgiveness.

Let's all "Do Evangelism" -- for that is what Jesus would want us to do!



## Bible Study Begins: Gospel of Mark

Home Bible study will begin in September with the Gospel of Mark being the first book of study. We will meet on Thursday, **September 7<sup>th</sup>** and again on **September 21<sup>st</sup>**. The homes we will be meeting in will be announced at Church and listed in the Bulletin. To prepare for next month, please begin reading the Gospel now, as we will not be reading it during our meetings. Below are some additional notes concerning the writing of the Gospel.

### MARK

The Gospel of Mark was the first of the four Gospels to be written. Both Matthew and Luke used Mark as a reference, and between those other two Gospels, all except 24 verses of Mark are quoted or used by them.

Mark was written by John Mark, the son of a well-to-do lady of Jerusalem whose name was Mary. Her house was a meeting place of the early church (see Acts 12:12) and, some believe, was the house where the last supper was held.

The author, John Mark, has often been called the "interpreter of Peter" and it seems certain that Peter told the story of Jesus to Mark. In the book of Acts we learn that Mark was a cousin of Barnabas, and the three of them traveled with Paul when Paul began his first missionary journey. For some reason Mark parted company with them early in the journey. This caused Paul, at first, to look with disfavor upon Mark. When Paul and Barnabas began their second missionary trip, Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them, but Paul refused to have anything to do with Mark. This angered Barnabas so much that, instead of going with Paul, Barnabas and Mark went on their own in a different direction (Acts 15:37-40). Later in Paul's life he forgave Mark and acknowledged that Mark was useful in the building of the kingdom. (Colossians 4:10 and 2 Timothy 4:11)

There is a long standing tradition that

Mark wrote this Gospel while he was at Rome, and that he wrote it for the Romans. Unlike Matthew, there are few references to the Old Testament in the Gospel of Mark. In fact, Mark goes out of his way to explain Jewish customs which non-Jews, such as the Romans, would not understand. Mark also translates many of the Aramaic expressions into Greek, which was spoken by most Romans at that time. It is also true that this Gospel contains more Latin words than either Matthew or Luke. It is evident that the circumstances and setting for Mark's writing was more Roman than Hebrew.

Mark's Gospel is not as polished as is either Matthew's or Luke's, but, instead, it is a Gospel of action: He emphasizes works more than words. There are fewer actual quotes by Jesus in the Gospel of Mark than any of the other Gospels.

The ending of Mark has been lost. The earliest copies of the Gospel end at 16:8, while the verses 16:9-20 were added later by another writer and are only found in older copies of the manuscript. If you read up to 16:9, it seems as if the story abruptly ends, right in the middle of telling about the resurrection. What happened to the original ending? Maybe Mark died before finishing it. Maybe the last part of the scroll was torn off. All we know is that the story ends abruptly.

### Characteristics of Mark's Gospel

- 1) It is simply told
- 2) It tells both the humanity of Jesus as well as his divinity.
- 3) It includes details that only an eyewitness (Peter) would have known.

### Outline

- I) Introduction and Preparation (1:1-13)
  - A) The Forerunner – John the Baptist (1:1-8)
  - B) Jesus' Baptism (1:9-11)
  - C) The Temptation (1:12-13)

- II) Jesus' Ministry in Galilee (1:14-8:26)
  - A) First Disciples Called (1:14-20)
  - B) Many Miracles (1:21-3:12)
  - C) The Twelve Disciples Chosen (3:13-19)
  - D) Controversy with the Pharisees, Parables, Storm Quieted, Healings (3:20-6:6)
  - E) The Apostles Commissioned (6:7-13)
  - F) Death of John the Baptist (6:14-29)
  - G) Feeding 5000, Controversy with the Pharisees, Feeding 4000 (6:30-8:10)
  - H) Denunciation of the Opposition, Blind Man Healed (8:7:11-26)
- III) Preparation for the Passion (8:27-10:52)
  - A) Peter's Confession (8:27-30)
  - B) First Announcement of the Passion (8:31-38)
  - C) Transfiguration, Demonic Child Healed (9:1-29)
  - D) Second Announcement of the Passion (9:30-32)
  - E) Teaching on Divorce, Rich Young Ruler, Etc. (9:33-10:31)
  - F) Third Announcement of the Passion (10:32-34)
  - G) Sons of Zebedee argue among themselves, Blind Bartimaeus healed (10:35-52)
- IV) Passion Week and the Resurrection (11:1-end)
  - A) Triumphal Entry and Cleansing of the Temple (chapter 11)
  - B) Parable, Controversy with the Herodians and Sadducees (12:1-27)
  - C) Great Commandment, Widow's Mite, Prediction of 2nd coming (12:28-13:37)
  - D) Supper at Bethany (14:1-11)
  - E) Last Supper (14:12-31)
  - F) Gethsemane and the Betrayal (14:32-52)
  - G) Trial before the High Priest (14:53-72)
  - H) Trial before Pilate (15:1-21)
  - I) The Crucifixion (15:22-47)
  - J) The Resurrection (16:1-8)
  - K) Epilogue (16:9-20)

## Opportunities to Worship & Serve

Sunday School:..... 10:00 a.m.  
 August Elder: ..... Catsby Prewitt  
 September Elder: ..... Roger Wilson

Morning Worship: ..... 11:00 a.m.  
 August Deaconess: ..... Marie Holland  
 September Deaconess:..... Molly Tout

### August Activities:

1<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m. : ..... Evangelism committee  
 5<sup>th</sup>, All Day : ..... Yard Sale at Church  
 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.: ..... Evangelistic Visits  
 10<sup>th</sup>, evening:..... Youth (and adults) clean basement  
 12<sup>th</sup>, day: ..... Youth paint basement

13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30:..... Board Meeting  
 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.: ..... Evangelistic Visits  
 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m.: ..... Evangelistic Visits  
 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.: ..... Evangelistic Visits

