

The Highs & Lows of Following Christ | Mark 9 | 12.02.18

Five advantages of chapter-by-chapter study of Scripture at Grace:

1. Difficult topics are addressed that may be missed with other styles of preaching.
Example – chapter 9 deals with Hell, chapter 10 addresses divorce.
2. Scripture dictates the themes, not personal tastes and opinions.
3. You know what chapter is coming next and that allows you to prepare your heart in advance.
4. You are given a study guide each week as a great tool for review and for your personal notes.
5. **REVIEW and PREPARE!** Review the chapter we studied and study the upcoming chapter

Psalm 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.

Psalm 119:24 Your testimonies also are my delight And my counselors.

A prayer for Bible Study – *Dear gracious Father, open my eyes of faith that I may see from your Word that which I would never perceive on my own. Create within me right desires that I may seek and ask for the right things. Help me to desire what is truly important and value that which benefits my walk with Christ. Holy Spirit, I need you as my teacher, I need Scripture as my counselor. Left to my own I would never seek to know, love, and serve God. I need Christ as my advocate and High Priest, for he makes my prayers accessible. Amen*

Bible Study Questions: (1) What does this passage teach us about God? (2) What does it teach us about humanity? (3) What does God want me to know about this passage? (4) What does God want me to do about this passage?

*Revelation 1:14-15 His head and hair were white like wool, **as white as snow**, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters.*

Lord, I believe; help my unbelief. **Mark 9:24**

All of Scripture was written *for* us but not all of Scripture was written *to* us. **2Timothy 3:16-17**
There are certain promises that were for certain people and for certain times.

A Servant of Jesus Christ: It's one thing to identify ourselves as a "**servant of Jesus Christ**"; *it's quite another to be treated as one.* Once we become mistreated, it is common to react in a way that reveals we want only the title of servant of Jesus Christ; we don't want what comes with that title. *Being a servant of Christ calls for criticism and misunderstanding, lack of appreciation and recognition, inconvenience and discomfort, and personal sacrifice and suffering. It means we allow the results to be in the master's hands and a reminder that I am the clay and God is the potter.*

We hurt ourselves and other believers, and we confuse the unsaved when we place our view of music (*fill in the blank with any personal preference*) on the same level as the virgin birth.

If we were honest and humble, we would admit that every church gets certain things right about God and certain things wrong about God. We should give liberty to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. *With that said – we should have zero tolerance for a false gospel.*

Galatians 1:8-9 *But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.*

Mark 9 ends with the most dreaded and debated teaching of the Bible.

Spiritual surgery required! Mark 9:43-44 *If your hand (foot in verse 45, eye in verse 47) causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁴ where “Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched (re: Isaiah 66:24)*

Luke 16:22-31 *The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, (Greek – the place of the dead) he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; **for I am tormented in this flame.**’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ ²⁷ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, ²⁸ **for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.**’ ²⁹ Abraham said to him, ‘They have **Moses and the prophets**; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”*

(1) The man was not in Hell because he was rich, but because he rejected God’s plan of redemption. (2) The man clearly is suffering (counters the teaching of annihilation, re: **Rev. 20:10**). (3) The man is aware of his brothers’ conditions and prays for them. (4) The man is told that Scripture carries more authority than experience. (4) Christ is rejected, though he rose again.

The root question: ***Is God “just” in sending someone to Hell?***

Psalms 145:17 *The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.*

Romans 11:33-34 *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?”*

God is perfect in love, mercy, and justice. Anyone who submits to Jesus Christ will be granted eternal life and forgiveness of all sins. It cost God a great price to provide forgiveness – the price was the cruel death of His son on a cross.

Christ turns the teaching to the disciples to challenge them to be good witnesses (salt is the example used and they understood what he meant). **Mark 9:49-50**

REVIEW and PREPARE | Mark 10 addresses the topic of Divorce