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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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Prepare, Repent, Believe

Mark 1:1-15

Series: Getting In on the Good News
The Gospel of Jesus Christ According to Mark

Central Passages

Mark 1:14–15 (ESV) — **14** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, **15** and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Central Thought: Getting in on God’s Good News begins with repenting of our humanistic, nationalistic and religion-centric ways and believing that Jesus is the beloved Son of God and the true Savior of the world.

The Message

- ❖ The Gospel = Good News
 - The announcement that God, through his son, Jesus Christ, has broken into to human history to save us and to establish his reign on earth as it is in Heaven.

Luke 4:18–19 (ESV) — **18** “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, **19** to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

The Means (of Getting In)

- ❖ Prepare = Confess our sins and our need for outside help.

1 John 1:9–10 (ESV) — **9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

- ❖ Repent = Turn away sinful behavior, and from all attempts to save ourselves – personally and nationally.

Mark 8:34–35 (ESV) — **34** And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **35** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it.

Matthew 23:37 (ESV) — **37** “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! (See also, Luke 13.34)

- ❖ Believe = Trust that Jesus is God’s agent of salvation and recreation for you personally and for the whole world.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) — **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Revelation 21:5 (ESV) — **5** And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” ...

Colossians 1:15–20 (ESV) — **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him... **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.