

THE GOSPEL OF MARK: STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

8, The Gospel Paradox in this sin-fallen world demands faith in Divine providence integral to the salvation of the world, progressive revelation recorded in Holy Scripture, predictive prophecy terminating in Christ's New Covenant Gospel, and promised gospel consummation to the glory of God, Part 8D

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Introduction: When Jesus asks the disciples and us who the world says He is and then again who we say He is, straight talk about Jesus Christ has reached its climax. What follows in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 8:34ff. to the end, is the record of Scripture more fully revealing the solution to the Gospel paradox by the content of the faith, what we must believe, and the means of resolve, i.e. saving-faith—the act of believing.

**You cannot believe anything you wish about Jesus Christ and be saved by Him!*

8, The Gospel Paradox in this sin-fallen world demands faith in Divine providence integral to the salvation of the world, progressive revelation recorded in Holy Scripture, predictive prophecy terminating in Christ's New Covenant Gospel, and promised gospel consummation to the glory of God.

vv. 1-10, Jesus' miraculous feeding of the 4,000+ people in gentile territory further demonstrates God's providence integral to the salvation of the world...

vv. 11-26, Jesus' healing a blind man in 2 stages provides another gospel object lesson about the need to understand the progressive revelation of Scripture in order to avoid the spread of false-teaching and corruptive influences that spread like leaven/yeast, e.g. the Pharisees and Herod's club...

vv. 27-33, Jesus' commending Peter's Christocentric confession and consequently rebuking Peter's confusion from satanic influence establishes the gospel hermeneutic (i.e. interpretive method) of predictive prophecy terminating in Christ's New Covenant fulfillment...

vv. 27-28, The Gospel Paradox exists because of who Jesus Christ is:

- Caesarea Philippi was a pagan city of worldly renewal...
- In the midst of His ongoing public ministry, Jesus asks what is the buzz about His public notoriety...
- Jesus' popular notoriety, as told by the disciples, illustrates the confusion of Biblical ideas and man-made superstitions so often sensationalized by misguided prophetic expectations, cf. 6:14, et al....

v. 29, Peter's Christocentric confession is the apostolic witness to the Holy Spirit's empowerment of the New Covenant Gospel:

- "the Christ", i.e. Messiah, Anointed One, is the prophetically revealed and Scripturally recorded Divine Messenger of the Covenant Who is the Deliverer, the Savior of the world-wide people of God...
- Confessing Jesus to be the Christ by true saving -faith does not mean intellectually understanding everything about Him and His saving work...

vv. 30-31, Jesus identifies essential Christian theological truths that must be believed and confessed and these essential theological facts form the Gospel Paradox:

- Jesus' charged the disciples with a limited probation restricting their zeal without knowledge, i.e. they would need more founding in the faith to resolve the Gospel paradox as the immediate context demonstrates by Peter's confusion...
- Jesus initiated the essential teachings/doctrines of the New Covenant Gospel repeatedly summarized and expounded throughout the New Testament Scriptures, e.g., "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!' But they have not all obeyed the gospel." (Romans 10:9-10, 15-16)
 "...I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you...For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures..." (1 Corinthians 15:1-3)

"Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel..." (2 Timothy 2:7-8)

"Knowing that you are not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God...Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you." (1 Peter 1:18-21, 25), et al.

vv. 32-33, The Gospel Paradox is ordained by God to disturb the human conscience pressing the conflict with the world, the flesh, and the devil:

- Peter's private presumption against God's ordained will and purpose for Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection seems humanly compassionate and God honoring...
- Peter's private presumption motivated by human compassion and worldly expectations is none the less influenced by the tactics of satanic deception...
- Peter's private presumption tempting Jesus did not remove him from public rebuke by Jesus because the Gospel is not for private interpretation as Peter subsequently learned and proclaimed, "...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Do you comprehend the Gospel Paradox? (cf. v. 31) When Jesus asks the disciples and us who the world says He is and then again who we say He is, straight talk about Jesus Christ has reached its climax. The solution to the Gospel paradox is Scripturally revealed by the content of the faith, what we must believe, and the means of resolve, i.e. saving-faith—the act of believing. Predictive prophecy, like all Scripture, is not for private presumptive—make up your own—meaning, Jesus establishes the gospel hermeneutic (i.e. interpretive method) of predictive prophecy terminating in Christ's New Covenant fulfillment, i.e. promised gospel consummation to the glory of God.(part 8E, 8:34-38)

