

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

10-29-2023 // WEEK 43 NOTES

Romans 8 -16 and Mark 1 -9

Romans:

Chapter 8

This week you finished the book of Romans. **Romans Chapter 8** (one of my favorite chapters in all the Bible) shows the glory of living under the Spirit by grace. But please note that **chapter 8** does NOT show a life without pain and suffering. We all have groanings in our own bodies, the world, and the Spirit who lives in us. We just know the victory of living in Christ, his love (**verses 37-39**).

Chapters 9 - 11

The place of the Jews in God's providence. They are set aside momentarily for the fullness of the Gentiles to be brought in. Then there will be a great revival among the Jews before Jesus returns.

Chapters 12 - 16

The practical application of living for Jesus. A renewed mind, loving our enemies, not returning evil for evil, his gifts in us, understanding government authority, living for the lesser brother and sister, etc.

Please note again the division of Paul's letters. The first part is usually **orthodoxy** (right beliefs). And the second half is **orthopraxy** (the right application of those beliefs). That's the division of Romans. Right theology (**chapters 1-11**). And right practice (**chapters 12-16**).

Mark

A few things to note in Mark:

- It was probably the first gospel written. Most think it was written in the 50's AD. Luke and Matthew seem to have Mark before them when they wrote, including many of the same stories and messages. Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the Synoptic gospels because they share so much synopses, so

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much similar information. John is unique/different. He has an entirely different purpose, one we will look at when we get there.

- Mark is transcribing Peter. That's the position of the early church fathers, some of whom were within decades of Peter's life. So it is authoritative because these are Peter's words. And note, when you read it, how Peter is shown in all his failures and foibles. Peter openly shared his weaknesses in the gospel.
- It is the **shortest of the gospels**. It's a USA Today version of the gospels. Note, as you read it, how often the word "immediately" is used. It's fast-paced, one story to the next, version of Jesus's life.
- Its primary audience was the Romans. It's **simply trying to show them who Jesus was** – the Son of God, God in human flesh, who came to save the world. The Romans audience was the thinkers of the day, but who wanted the quick version of all matters. Mark/Peter speaks to them in their language/style/desire.
- Highlights from **chapter 8** include: the call to discipleship, counting the cost, giving up your life to follow Jesus. From **chapter 9**: the Transfiguration story, a glimpse of heavenly glory for Peter, James and John...and us!

As you continue reading through Mark, read it while asking this question: **Who is Jesus? Mark/Peter give us the answer throughout the gospel.**

I hope you are continuing to enjoy the journey.

David