**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Sermon

*The Good News According to Mark,*

*An Apostle of Jesus Christ*

 *365 Day Disciple ~ Mark 12:35-43*

*WE ARE SPIRITUAL INSTRUMENTS OF God*

July 8th, In the Year of Our Lord 2018

**The Remainder of Mark 12:**

**DAVID CALLS JESUS LORD, Referencing Psalm 110**

 35 And Jesus answering *began* to say,

 as He taught in the temple,

 "How *is it that* the scribes say

[They know Psalm and other O.T. verses]

**Isaiah 9:7; 11:1,2; Jeremiah 23:5,6; 33:15; Ezekiel 34:23,24**

that the Christ is the son of David?

 36 "David himself said in the Holy Spirit,

[Holy Spirit Active in the Old Testament]

 'The Lord said to my LORD,

"Sit at My right hand, Until I put Thine enemies beneath Thy feet.'"

 37 "David himself calls Him 'Lord';

 and *so,* in what sense is He his son?"

And the great crowd enjoyed listening to Him.

**Remember during the Triumphal Entry, the people called out: (Mark 11:10) Blessed *is* the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!"**

If you hadn’t ever read this passage and hadn’t any understanding of the Bible or Israel and the Hebrew people, you would think this was science fiction. Breaking down the components is most important.

 1. What/Where is the Temple?

 2. Who are the scribes?

 3. Who is David?

 4. What is the Christ?

 5. Did David have a son called Christ?

 6. David talks to a Spirit?

 7. Gods or Lords speak to each other?

 8. Where is the place they are referring where

 someone would sit at someone else’s right hand?

 9. Who are the enemies?

 10. Do gods have enemies?

 10. Who is referenced as Son?

 11. Do gods have sons?

 12. Was Jesus a teacher?

I mean, where do you start? We need to realize that the world in which we live ~~in~~ is *that* unknowing about God’s Word and the history of the Hebrew people. An analogy would be to say that the average person does not know where first base is on the baseball diamond. Hard to believe, but a sad fact in our society. The one book upon which the whole of Western civilization is based is not very well known. Meaning, past the name on the cover, the content is obscure to the average person. So, we have been given a gift in our time. God has chosen to reveal Himself through His Book in our time. We do not forget that at other times in history God has revealed Himself in other ways through the creation (Romans 1:18ff, 10:18; Psalm 19).

**GOD’S CHALLENGED RELATIONSHIP WITH MANKIND**

The challenging relationship Jesus has with the religious leaders is representative of mankind’s overall relationship with God, with God’s incarnation, and His constantly convicting Holy Spirit. The dialogue throughout the New Testament that Jesus has with the Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees, Religious Lawyers, Sanhedrin and High Priest is indicative and represents fallen man’s resistance to surrender to God. Fallen man, with Satan working through him, does not want to relinquish the world that God created. These are the enemies of God. This is a great spiritual statement. We are in a spiritual battle.

 If a person does not think that Satan is not alive and operational on earth, they are blind. Too much moral decay and death are all around us all the time. The Bible states clearly the condition of the world. We are joined with God to defeat the Devil and those who have become the Devil’s instruments.

Here are some passages detailing the biblical fact that Satan, the Devil, is here on earth.

**Job 1:6-**7 6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it."

**Isaiah 14:12** "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations!

**Luke 10:18** And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

**Revelation 12:9** And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

**So, who is at war with Satan on earth?**

**God is.**

**Who is God working through on the earth to defeat the Devil?**

 **Believers.**

**1 John 3:8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

**John 12:31** "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.

 Believers are instruments of the Triune God. We are incorporated in His embodiment in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. God lives in Believers in order for Him to work in us. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10) 11 Therefore, put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11) and take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (Ephesians 6:13) Remember that we are blessed for being persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for ours is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:10).

And for this purpose, also we labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within us (Colossians 1:29). Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword (Romans 8:35)? We shall not forget that it is for God’s glory and sake that we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered. But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For we are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:36-39).

 Paul wrote to the Believers in Corinth that He knew that God had exhibited him and the other apostles as men condemned to death, because they had become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men (1 Corinthians 4:9). In this challenging life, Paul, as God’s instrument called to Believers, writing, “For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men” (1 Thessalonians 2:14-15). Paul is our witness that a person can endure in all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory (2 Timothy 2:10). Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us (Hebrew 12:1).

We know where this all ends. God will put His enemies under Him. We are not to fear even if we suffer. John writes under the direction of the Holy Spirit to the saints in the book of Revelation, “Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

**WHAT GIVES US THE POWER TO OVERCOME?**

**John 17:21-23 Jesus says. . .**

 **21 that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, *art* in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us;**

that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.

22 "And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them;

 that they may be one, just as We are one;

 **23 I in them, and Thou in Me,**

that they may be perfected in unity,

that the world may know that Thou didst send Me,

and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.

**John 14:15-20**

15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

17 *that is* the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, ***but* you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you.**

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

19 "After a little while the world will behold Me no more; but you *will* behold Me; because I live, you shall live also.

20 "In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

We live lives in the Spirit of Jesus Christ, because the Spirit of God dwells in us (Romans 8:9). This indwelling supports us in this spiritual battle. The Bible is clear. We are instruments in God’s plan to redeem His creation. This is why we are directed to put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:11ff). We must constantly remember that Satan is the ruler in fallen humanity, and Satan has already been judged.

**Ephesians 6:10-13**

 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.

 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

 **John 12:31** "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

**John 16:7-11** 7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

John 14:30 **"**I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;

2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Ephesians 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

John 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.

Matthew 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only. "

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that the Christ is the son of David?

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"Sit at My right hand, Until I put Thine enemies beneath Thy feet.'"

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 and *so,* in what sense is He his son?"

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**Psalm 110:1 A Psalm of David.**

**The LORD (Yahweh) says to my Lord (Adoni):**

**"Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."**

 **2 The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."**

 **3 Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You *as* the dew.**

 **4 The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."**

 **5 The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath.**

 **6 He will judge among the nations, He will fill *them* with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country.**

 **7 He will drink from the brook by the wayside; Therefore He will lift up *His* head.**

**1 Corinthians 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all**

 **His enemies under His feet.**

**Acts 2:34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven,**

**but he himself says: The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,**

**Hebrews 1:13 But to which of the angels has He ever said,**

**"Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies A footstool for Thy feet"?**

**Peter after receiving additional power from Pentecost.**

**14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: "Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. . . continue in verse 22 of Acts 2:22-36**

**22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--**

**23 this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.**

 **24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.**

 **25 "For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. 26 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE; 27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. 28 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.'**

 **29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.**

 **30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,**

 **31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.**

 **32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.**

 **33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.**

 **34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, 35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET."'**

 **36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."**

**Psalm 132:1; 2 Samuel 7:2; Psalm 89:3,4; Jerimiah 23:5**

**Old Testament quoted in the New Testament.**

Statistics and Styles of Quotations. The New Testament does not simply express its dependence on the Old Testament by quoting it. The fourth edition of the United Bible Societies' Greek Testament (1993) lists 343 Old Testament quotations in the New Testament, as well as no fewer than 2, 309 allusions and verbal parallels. The books most used are Psalms (79 quotations, 333 allusions), and Isaiah (66 quotations, 348 allusions). In the Book of Revelation, there are no formal quotations at all, but no fewer than 620 allusions.

**https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/the-old-testament-in-the-new-testament.html**

**Mark 12 continued:**

**BEWARE OF SCRIBES**

 38 And in His teaching, He was saying:

 "Beware of the scribes

who like to walk around in long robes,

and *like* respectful greetings in the market places,

39 and chief seats in the synagogues,

and places of honor at banquets,

 40 **who devour widows'** houses,

 and for appearance's sake offer long prayers;

these will receive greater condemnation."

**THE POOR WIDOW**

 41 And He sat down opposite the treasury and *began* observing how the multitude were putting money into the treasury;

and many rich people were putting in large sums.

 42 And a **poor widow** came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent.

 43 And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them,

"Truly I say to you, **this poor widow** put in more than all the contributors to the treasury;

44 for they all put in out of their surplus,

but she, out of her poverty,

put in all she owned,

all she had to live on."

Jesus continues to identify the religious leaders as corrupt. He constantly points out their abuses and their hypocrisy. Jesus identifies the leaders as those who should have been concerned for the welfare of the people and taken care of them. However, they used their positions in society to take advantage of people and oppress them. You can apply this teaching to all public officials.

In Jesus’ last observation in Mark 12, He points to a lowly poor widow woman and compares her donation to the donations of the self-indulgent, rich and famous scribes and religious leaders. They thought they had God in their pockets due to their attire, how people addressed them, their prestigious seats in the synagogue and banquet halls and their public long prayers. Remember, early in Jesus’ teaching ministry, He proclaimed that unless a person’s righteousness is greater that the scribes and the Pharisees, they would not enter the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:20).

So, what is the level of righteousness you have to do to get into heaven? Zero. We have no righteousness of our own. God acts righteously through Believers.

**Romans 4:1-9** 1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about; but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing upon the man to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: 7 "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, And whose sins have been covered. 8 "Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account." 9 Is this blessing then upon the circumcised, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say, "Faith was reckoned to Abraham as righteousness." . . . CONTINUE IN VERS 13. 13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, **but through the righteousness of faith.**

**So, where does this lead us today?**

**Therefore, the enemies of God do not operate by faith because they have never been justified by God through God’s gift of faith, because they have none. When you see a person abusing others then their lack of faith is obvious. God works through faith. Faith is what produces works (James 2).**

**We are called to live by faith. Paul declares:**

**17 For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written,**

**"But the righteous *man* shall live by faith."**

**(Romans 1:17)**

**AMEN**