

Mark 16:9-20 – The Veracity & Reliability Of Scripture

Introduction

1. Trustworthiness is lacking in our culture – trusting government, leaders, the media, corporations, etc
2. Man was built to invest himself into something greater than he is – something eternal
 - a. When the world denies the grand Biblical narrative, they pick a worldly issue they see as morally superior, even if anti-Christ
 - b. A narrative that is subpar to God's glory and God's designs only descends into decay and death
3. Our trust needs to be in the Lord and His Word – in the veracity and reliability of His Word
4. The Goal: Strengthen our faith in God's Word and understand how we received the Bible we have in our hands
5. The Warning: I do not want to cause confusion, but confidence in God

Main Idea: God's Holy Word is God-Breathed, received by verbal-plenary Holy Spirit inspiration, written by God's chosen men, and providentially preserved through the ages. It is inerrant in its original written form and the infallible rule of faith. We can trust in the veracity and the reliability of the Scriptures.

Doctrinal Assumptions, Affirmations, And Acknowledgments

1. The Holy Scriptures are sufficient – it is enough to lead us to salvation in Christ and obedience to His commands (**1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith (LBCF), Ch 1, Par. 1**)
 - a. The Holy Scriptures is infallible – it is completely dependable, steady, solid & sound as the ground for saving knowledge in Christ
 - i. God has revealed Himself to us to know Him through the Son of God (Special Revelation)
 - ii. We need no other text to know His will
2. God is the author of Holy Scripture, making it authoritative (**LBCF, Ch 1, Par. 4, 2 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17**)
 - a. The Holy Spirit carried men along to write the Bible – it is God-breathed; when we read the Bible, we hear God's mind
3. God the Holy Spirit inspired the Word of God (**LBCF, Ch 1, Par. 8**)
 - a. The Spirit did not dictate in a mechanical way
 - b. The writers were not in some emotional euphoria
 - c. God the Spirit led these men without them losing their personality
 - d. The Spirit inspired these men to communicate the full redemptive history, our salvation, and the rule of faith
 - e. When you read Greek or Hebrew you can tell who wrote what because of their writing style or language
 - f. We believe in the verbal plenary Holy Spirit inspired Word of God
4. The original text of Scripture was inerrant; the text we have today is without errors, meaning there is no error regarding doctrinal truth
5. The Bible is perfect and pure (**LBCF, Ch 1, Par. 5**)

The History Of Bible Translation

1. Before the 1500s & the invention of the printing press, access to the Bible was limited; much of the Word was shared through the oral tradition
2. The Bible was written on papyri, parchment roles, & codices
 - a. Manuscripts (MSS) were meticulously written by hand by scribes
 - b. The Bible was then translated into the languages of the world from the original Hebrew and Greek (**LBCF, Ch 1, Par. 8**)
 - c. We do not have the original MSS, but we have 86,000 quotes and citations of the original text by the Patristic Fathers
 - d. The number of MSS of the Greek New Testament text – 5,800
 - e. The number of extant MSS of the New Testament – 25,000
 - i. The number of ancient literature pales in comparison
3. The earliest fragment – P52 (125 AD), the oldest full MSS of the Greek NT is Sinaiticus (300-350 AD) and Vaticanus (325-350 AD)
4. *There are scribal variances, but none of them take away from the message of the Gospel, doctrinal truth, historical accuracy*
 - a. Case Study: John 1:18 – no change in truth with the variances
 - b. Thy Word is Truth (**John 17:17, Psalm 119:160**)
5. We can affirm with confidence the divine providential care of every MS by the Lord – the Bible is the undiluted, unmixed truth; we can trust it

The Ending Of Mark 16:9-20

1. The External Evidence
 - a. Irenaeus quoted Mark 16:9-20
 - b. Washingtonius Codex (4th-5th Cent) added to the longer ending
 - c. Codex L (Regius, 8th Century) & Codex Psi (Athous Lavrensis, 8th-9th Cent) has a shorter ending
 - d. Codex Sinaiticus & Codex Vaticanus do not contain the last 12 verses of Mark 16 – there is an abrupt statement with verse 8
2. Satan said, “Did God really say?” to cause doubt of the word of God, people like Bart Ehrman try to cause this doubt
3. There is no consensus within Biblical Scholarship concerning the ending of the Gospel of Mark
4. The Bible is inerrant, infallible – has the complete truth of God, but with the variances, it is like a puzzle with extra puzzle pieces
5. If the Gospel of Mark had an ending, how was it lost: persecution caused Mark to leave it unfinished, ending was torn off and lost, or Mark was intentional abrupt (I think this last part is most convincing)
6. The Internal Evidence
 - a. Verses 9-20 do not contain Mark's style, vocabulary, syntax, etc
 - b. Verses 9-20 was a marginal gloss (marginal commentary by a scribe) that was most likely inserted into the text
7. Was any fundamental doctrinal truth lost if these last verses are absent?
 - a. **Verses 9-11** – Jesus did rise from the dead and meet Mary Mag.
 - b. **Verses 12-13** – Jesus met Cleopas on the way to Emmaus
 - c. **Verses 14-15** – Jesus did appear to His disciples
 - d. **Verses 16-18** – Baptismal regeneration is false, handling snakes, drinking poison is only seen in this passage
 - e. **Verses 19-20** – Jesus did ascend into heaven: nothing was lost!!