

The End of the Beginning

The Gospel of Mark Series – Part 12

Scripture text – Mark 16:1-8

Introduction

- Mark's Gospel almost certainly ends with verse _____. The verses that come later were added to give the Gospel a more _____ conclusion.
- Our approach today is that Mark knew what he was _____.

The Record

- Two things are noteworthy about Mark's account:
 1. Its _____; and
 2. There's no corroborating _____ that it happened.
- The resurrection of Christ is a _____.
- Collectively, the evidence is so compelling that, if a person hears the evidence and _____ believe, it's because he/she doesn't _____ to.
- One internal piece of evidence is that the 1st witnesses were _____. If the resurrection was made-up, there's no way Mark would include this detail.

The Relevance

- Of primary importance is what the resurrection meant to _____.
- For Jesus, the resurrection symbolized the totality of his _____ over sin, death & the devil . . . and following the humiliation of his death, was the first step back in the process of his _____.
- The early church used the title *Christus Victor*, Latin for "Christ the _____."
- Steps in the process of exaltation:
 - 1) Resurrection
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____ at the right hand
 - 4) _____ again

The Response

- The response of the women were hardly the feelings & emotions we associate with _____ . At least initially, they were _____ .
- This fits with the description of how others _____ to Christ.

A Strange Ending

- Mark wants his readers to put _____ in the story.
- This is because the story is still _____ .
- As it pertains to us individually, does the story _____ , or does it _____ ?