



SPIRITUAL DIGEST

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" HE WANTS ALL OR
NOTHING. THE THOUGHT
OF A PERSON CALLING
HIMSELF A 'CHRISTIAN'
WITHOUT BEING A
DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF
CHRIST IS ABSURD."
- FRANCIS CHAN



BEING EXAMINED AS THE PASSOVER LAMB

John 19:6 When therefore the chief priests and the attendants saw Him, they cried out, saying, Crucify! Crucify! Pilate said to them, You take Him and crucify Him, for I do not find fault in Him.

Exodus 12:5-6 Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year... (6) ...and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

The Lord was examined in His dignity by mankind, being examined as the Passover lamb was examined. The Lord Jesus was crucified on the Passover as the Passover lamb.

According to the type, before the Passover lamb was killed, it had to be examined to determine whether or not it had any blemish. The examination of Christ by mankind was the fulfillment of this type. After Pilate examined Him, he declared, "I find no fault whatever in him". There was no blemish in this Passover lamb; He was fully qualified to be the lamb for God's people.

After the Lord Jesus was examined, He, the perfect One, was sentenced in man's injustice. This unjust sentence exposed the blindness of religion and the darkness of politics. Many years ago I read an article describing how the Jews slew the lamb during the Passover. The article said that the Jews took two wooden bars and formed a cross. They put the lamb on the cross, tying two of the lamb's legs to the foot of the cross and fastening the outstretched legs to the crossbar. Then they slew the lamb so that all its blood was shed. Thus, the killing of the Passover lamb was a portrait of the crucifixion of Christ... Not long before the crucifixion of Christ, the Roman government adopted crucifixion as the method of executing criminals. This was decided under God's sovereignty that the prophecies regarding Christ's crucifixion [as the Passover lamb] might be fulfilled.



THE SPIRIT GUIDING US INTO ALL THE REALITY

John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;

John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality...

All the Lord is can be realized by the Spirit. If we only have the teachings, doctrines, and letters about the Lord without the Spirit, we do not have the reality. Doctrinal teaching about the Lord is not reality. The reality of the Lord is the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is the reality of the Lord. For example, we know that the Lord is life. But if we do not have the Holy Spirit, we can never have life. Since the Holy Spirit is the reality of Christ, we can have the reality of Christ by having the Holy Spirit. Then we have life. Furthermore, we know that the Lord is light. To have the Holy Spirit is to have light. If we do not have the Holy Spirit, we do

not have light. The Lord is also the way. If we have the Holy Spirit, we have the way and we know how to do everything. However, if we do not have the Holy Spirit but only have doctrinal teachings, we do not have the real way. The reality of Christ is the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of reality. The coming of the Spirit of reality means the coming of the reality of Christ. Whatever the Son is, has, and has accomplished, obtained, and attained will all be fully wrought into us through the Spirit.

WHO WAS MARK IN THE BIBLE?

John Mark, often just called Mark, is the author of the gospel of Mark. He was a believer in the early church mentioned directly only in the book of Acts. John Mark is first mentioned as the son of a woman named Mary (Acts 12:12), whose house was being used as a place for believers to gather and pray. Later, Mark is mentioned as a companion of Barnabas and Paul during their travels together (Acts 12:25). John Mark was also Barnabas' cousin (Colossians 4:10).

John Mark was a helper on Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey (Acts 13:5). However, he did not stay through the whole trip. John Mark deserted Paul and Barnabas in Pamphylia and left the work (Acts 15:38). The Bible does not say why Mark deserted, but his departure came right after a mostly fruitless time in Cyprus (Acts 13:4-12). Only one conversion is recorded in Cyprus, but

there had been strong demonic opposition. It's likely that the young John Mark was discouraged at the hardness of the way and decided to return to the comforts of home.

Some time later, after Paul and Barnabas had returned from their first journey, Paul expressed a desire to go back to the brothers in the cities they had previously visited to see how everyone was doing (Acts 15:36). Barnabas agreed, apparently upon the provision that they take John Mark with them. Paul refused to have Mark on the trip, however, citing Mark's previous desertion. Paul thought it best not to have a quitter with them; they needed someone more dependable. Paul and Barnabas had a "sharp disagreement" about John Mark (verse 39) and wound up separating from each other and going on separate journeys. Barnabas took John Mark with him to Cyprus, and Paul took Silas with him through Syria and Cilicia to encourage the believers in the churches in those areas (Acts 15:39-41).

Barnabas, the "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36), desired to forgive John Mark's failure and to give him another chance. Paul

took the more rational view: pioneering missionary work requires dedication, resolve, and endurance. Paul saw John Mark as a risk to their mission. Luke, the writer of Acts, does not take sides or present either Paul or Barnabas as being in the right. He simply records the facts. It's worth noting that, in the end, two groups of missionaries were sent out—twice as many missionaries were spreading the gospel.

John Mark sails off to Cyprus with his cousin Barnabas, but that is not the end of his story. Years later, he is with Paul, who calls him a “fellow worker” (Philemon 1:24). And near the end of Paul's life, Paul sends a request to Timothy from a Roman prison: “Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry” (2 Timothy 4:11). Obviously, John Mark had matured through the years and had become a faithful servant of the Lord. Paul recognized his progress and considered him a valuable companion.

John Mark wrote the gospel that bears his name sometime between AD 55 and 59. There could be a veiled reference to John Mark in Mark 14:51-52. In that passage a young man, roused from sleep on the night that Jesus was arrested,

attempts to follow the Lord, and the mob who had Jesus in custody attempts to seize him. The young man escapes and flees into the night. The fact that this incident is only recorded in Mark's gospel—and the fact that the young man is anonymous—has led some scholars to surmise that the fleeing young man is actually John Mark.

A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



MARY POURED OUT HER LOVE OFFERING

1

Mary poured out her love offering
To many such love was a waste.
Throughout all of the centuries
Such lovers Your sweetness do taste.
Precious lives and heart treasures, too
Positions and golden futures,
Have been “wasted” on You, Lord;
Your sweetness a fragrance so sure.
She took opportunity
To love You; Lord, with her best.
Like her, Lord, I too would pour
My love and all that I have.

2

As I love You I set my being—
My spirit, my soul and body.
With my heart, my mind, and my strength,
Absolutely on Thee.
Lord, I let my entire being
Be occupied by Thee
As I enter in Your heart
I sense a fellowship sweet.
Occupied and lost in You;
My Lord, You’re my everything.
Fellowship so intimate;
In spirit Lord I enjoy Thee.

3

Lord there’s none in heav’n nor on earth
That I desire but Thee.
Though my heart and flesh faileth, Lord,
Thou ever my portion will be.
All is vanity, all is dung;
I count all other things loss;
Everything else drains my love
But You have captured my heart.
Lord, I’ve seen Thy preciousness,
Thy worth, Thy reality.
Now, my Lord, I must confess
My heart is only for Thee.



B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

MONDAY: MARK 3

https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41_Mark3.htm#Mar3

TUESDAY: MARK 4

https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41_Mark4.htm#Mar4

WEDNESDAY: MARK 5

https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41_Mark5.htm#Mar5

THURSDAY: MARK 6

https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41_Mark6.htm#Mar6

FRIDAY: MARK 7

https://online.recoveryversion.bible/txo/41_Mark7.htm#Mar7