

Sunday, October 7, 2012—Mark Dispensationally Considered—Mark 16:19-20: Conclusion

Introduction/Review

- The past two weeks we have been discussing the nature of the signs listed in Mark 16:17-18. So far we have considered tongues as a jumping off point to discuss the other four signs listed in the passage. I have tried to show you from the scripture why the gift of tongues is not for today.
 - Tongues were real discernible languages
 - Tongues were for a sign to them that believe not/Israel required a sign
 - Tongues were part of Paul's early ministry during the Acts period as he testified before gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.
 - Tongues were one of the gifts given to the early church by the Holy Spirit but not everyone had the gift of tongues.
 - Tongues along with prophecy and knowledge were temporary until the word of God was complete
 - Tongues functioned differently in the Bible at different times and therefore needs to be rightly divided.

- Today what we want to do is spend a little time talking about the other four signs and conclude our studies in the book of Mark.

The Casting out of Devils

- Mark 16:17--those that believe and are baptized in verse 16 will be to cast out devils in verse 17. Throughout our Mark series we have seen Jesus as well as the Apostles casting out unclean spirits.
 - Mark 1:21-28
 - Mark 5:1-14—Satan sought to infest the nation of Israel with devils as a means of contending with Christ.
 - Mark 6:7-13

- During the book of Acts there is evidence of the signs listed in Mark 16 functioning, we see Peter and his cohorts casting devils out of people.
 - Acts 5:16
 - Acts 8:5-8—Philip was not one of the 12. He was someone who believed and was baptized.
 - Acts 16:16-18—not only did Paul speak in tongues but he also cast out demons during the Acts period.

- Today the revelation of the mystery has forced Satan to change his tactics. He no longer possesses people with demons directly but rather seeks to render the testimony of the body of Christ in the heavenly places as worthless by propagating false doctrine.
 - I Corinthians 2:7-8
 - Colossians 2:14-15—the cross put Satan and his cohorts to open shame and demonstrate
 - Ephesians 3:10
 - Ephesians 4:14—Satan’s goal is to deceive the body of Christ with respect to the mystery and who we truly are.
 - II Timothy 4:1—this is done through the propagation of false doctrine.

Snake Handling and Poison Drinking

- Mark 16:18—of all the signs listed in this passage these are the two you hear the least about. Even during the Acts period snake handling and poison drinking are not nearly as prevalent as exorcisms, tongues, and healing.
 - Acts 28:3-6—Paul is bitten by a snake and not injured.
- Regarding drinking deadly things and not being injured, I can find no account in the Biblical record of this actually happening. That of course does not mean that it did not when we have clear testimony that all the other signs listed in this passage legitimately functioned for a time.
 - II Kings 4:39-41
- What we do have in our day is proof that these gifts, i.e., snake handling and poison drinking are no longer functioning.

Laying Hands on the Sick

- Once again we have already seen numerous times throughout of studies in Mark, Jesus and the Apostles performing miraculous healings.
 - Acts 3:6-8
 - Acts 4:30
 - Acts 5:15-16—every person was healed there was no misfires, or you don’t have enough faith excuses being made.

- It is interesting how Paul performs all the signs listed in Mark 16 during the transitional time of the book of Acts.
 - Acts 19:11-12—Paul was sending out handkerchiefs that had touched his body that possessed the power to heal.
 - Acts 28:8-9
- By the end of his ministry Paul had clearly lost the ability to lay hands on the sick and have them recover.
 - II Timothy 4:20—if Paul still possessed the power to heal why did he leave Trophimus at Miletum sick
 - I Timothy 5:23—Paul tells Timothy to drink some wine to settle his stomach.
- All 5 of the gifts mentioned in Mark 16:17-18 are no longer functioning for the same reason that tongues passed away. They were all given for signs to the Jews that required a sign. Today during the dispensation of grace God is forming the church the body of Christ where the distinction between Jew and Gentile has been done away.

Mark 16:19-20

- **19) So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.**
- **20) And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**
- Mark 16:19—Jesus Christ had a 40 day post resurrection ministry before he ascended upon into heaven.
 - Luke 24:44-45, 49-53—after telling them about the promise of the Father that they would be endued with power from on high, i.e., receive the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ parted from them and was carried up into heaven.
 - Acts 1:3-11—they were still expecting that Christ would establish his kingdom.
- Mark 16:20—after Jesus was received into heaven the 12 Apostles go out and work this commission along with its accompanying signs and wonders following their words.