



Dr. Edward O. Williamson, Pastor-teacher
Bible Study and Discussion Group

Topic: The Gospel of Mark

Theme: "A Portrait of Jesus"

Handout #1 – Introduction and Chapter 1

Introduction

- Author – Mark, an associate of the Apostle Peter and a cousin of Barnabas
- Audience – written in Rome primarily for Gentile Roman Christians
- Date – A.D. 57-59
- Type of Writing and Purpose
 - A Synoptic Gospel
 - A biographical portrait of Jesus as the Servant of the Lord
 - To win converts to Christ
 - To give instructions to new Christian and strengthen their faith in the face of persecution
 - To provide material for the use of evangelists and teachers
 - To correct false ideas and teaching about Jesus
 - To help believers understand the nature of discipleship and what it means to follow Jesus

Outline:

- I. The title (1:1)

- II. Introduction: The Preparation for Jesus' Public Ministry (1:2-13)
 - a. John the Baptist (1:2-8)
 - b. The baptism of Jesus (1:9-11)
 - c. The temptation of Jesus (1:12-13)

- III. Jesus' Early Galilean Ministry (1:14-3:6)
 - a. The message of Jesus (1:14-15)
 - b. The call of first disciples (1:16-20)
 - c. Authority over demons and disease (1:21-45)
 - d. Controversies with Jewish religious Leaders in Galilee (2:1-3:5)
 - e. Conclusion: Jesus rejection by the pharisees (3:6)

Closing Comments/Questions