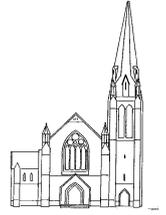




THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NORTH PARISH CHURCH, GIRVAN AYRSHIRE.



**Interim Moderator - Dr James Anderson
Locum - Glenn Ronald**

August 2021 Newsletter

Dear friends, Mark's Gospel was thought by many to be written first. His Gospel is not written chronologically, but rather topically. There is a calling of Jesus' disciples, then Jesus' Ministry, and His subsequent Jerusalem rejection. The pivotal moment comes when Peter confesses Jesus is indeed the Christ, 8:27-31, before Jesus predicts His death. For Mark, the Kingdom of God is present but will be completed in the future. The Kingdom's mystery is that it starts small then fulfils its purpose, 1:15.

Mark's events happen immediately, rather than having been taught by Jesus. Mark only has the parables of the Kingdom, 4:1-33, and a discussion of the "end times", 13:1-37. Mark believes Jesus did 20 miracles. Jesus, the Son of God, prevents sin, believes in the Sabbath and controls temple practices, making Him the Jewish leaders' enemy.

Jesus' authority does not exist in isolation. In Mark, Jesus is seen as the "suffering servant", or suffering Son of Man. This is seen in 10:45, which parallels Isaiah 53. Mark emphasises the importance of secrecy for those who mention His divinity, so Jesus is allowed to suffer. Jesus' Messiahship can only be revealed when it is better understood.

After Jesus' suffering comes His deification. His resurrection will lead to His "second coming" when Jesus will judge us all. Mark is critical of the disciples' actions. We have to ensure Jesus' suffering is not repeated. Mark talks to a church in conflict. The disciples will suffer like their master. Serving God and following Jesus will mean the Christian message will be spread to others.

Like the other Gospels, there is no author's signature to the work, but Papias describes Mark as Peter's interpreter, as Eusebius says. Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria and Justin concur. Mark's name on the parchment, confirms this. So it is John Mark, assistant to Peter, Paul and Barnabas. There is no other likely candidate. Mark's knowledge of Peter explains the Gospel's popularity in the Early Church. This is particularly true as Mark was not an Apostle.

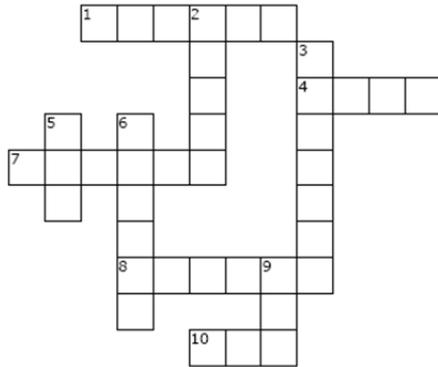
Mark is harder to date as the evidence does not correlate. Irenaeus thinks it was written after Peter and Paul's death in the late 60s. Clement of Alexandria, on the other hand, believes the Gospel was written when Peter and Paul were still in Rome

- sometime in the 50s. Some scholars believe Mark was written after Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70. This argument is on shaky ground as it uses as its evidence, Mark 13. Mark could easily have been writing about what could come to pass in the future. The early 60s seem more likely, particularly with Markan priority, as more scholars believe. Clement considers Mark a Roman Gospel. Others think it is Egyptian. Rome seems more likely especially due to Roman Christian persecution, Mark's suffering theme, and the conflict between the disciples and the Jewish leaders.

My wife will now recover at home after five weeks in Crosshouse Hospital. She appreciates everyone's kindness, care and attention. Stay safe and keep well everyone.

Best wishes, Glenn.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Persons; men, women, and children; human beings
4. A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea
7. A male parent
8. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets
10. An adult male human being

DOWN

2. The name that Jesus called Simon
3. A persons who speaks for God
5. To speak
6. The whole body of believers in Christ
9. A male child in relation to his parents

PETER PROPHET	FATHER ROCK	PEOPLE MAN	SON CHURCH	CHRIST SAY
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Children's Worship Bulletin

Peter's Confession of Christ

Matthew 16:13-20

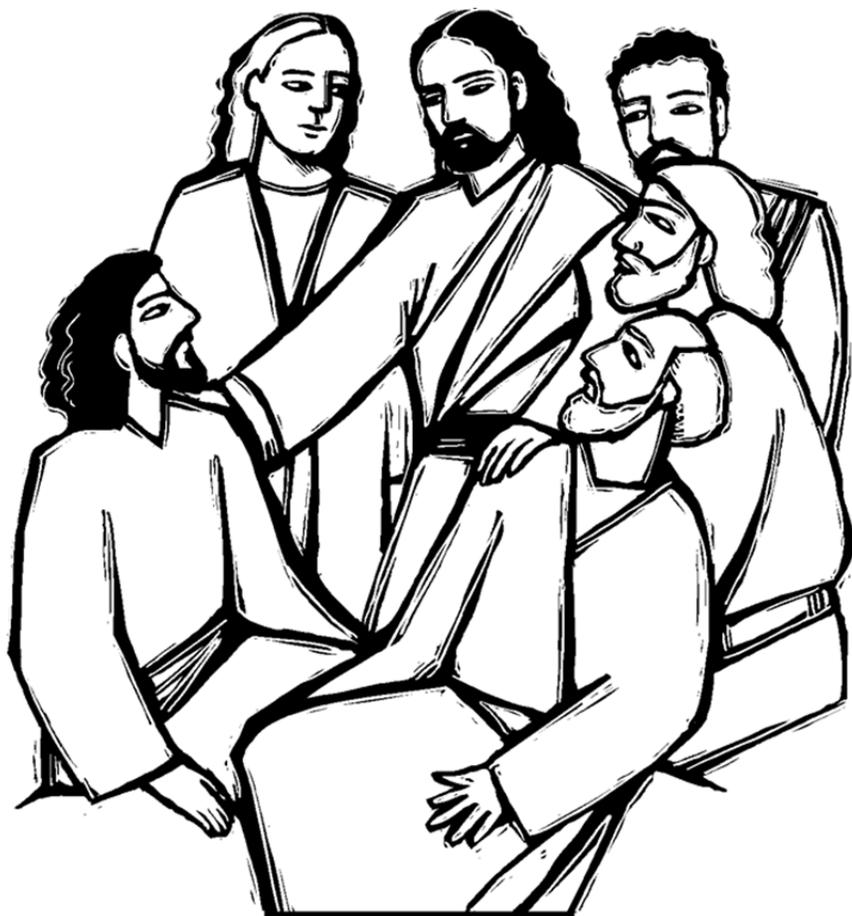
Word Search Puzzle

I W H Q O X N F C T Z V D L M
P V V P O E U A Z F U I B O M
E R Y G V M S T S P S Y D R N
O X O A R J R H B M E G O O M
P P E P G E D E L G N T S C S
L H I I H E L R B I S P E K E
E K F R S E Y I K A V U V R U
U T E S W I T J J O P I M O W
M H E Y O E Q S E A A T N P I
T L C T S A J I Z R H J I G M
B A H Y P R P J S I E K O S L
X P R J N T F E J A D M A H T
I L I B U H D J L A J P I X N
J J S Y L A J G A T E S T A T
G L T E H U I S A C H U R C H

CHRIST	EARTH	SON	PROPHETS	PEOPLE
BLESSED	KINGDOM	CHURCH	GATES	BAPTIST
LIVING	ROCK	FATHER	HADES	ELIJAH
JOHN	HEAVEN	PETER	KEYS	JEREMIAH

Your Church's Name
Address
City, State

Coloring Page



“But what about you? Who do you say I am?”
Matthew 16:15



Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	Q	S	T	R	N	P	M	W	Y	L	Z	C	D	H	G	K	E	O	J	F	V	U	I	X	A

1. 7-5-19-7-15-18-4-3 _____
2. 15-18-26-22-18-6 _____
3. 17-18-10-3 _____
4. 5-19-13-17 _____
5. 17-24-6-16-14-19-8 _____
6. 11-24-22-24-6-16 _____
7. 13-15-5-24-3-4 _____
8. 13-15-23-5-13-15 _____
9. 7-18-19-7-11-18 _____
10. 1-11-18-3-3-18-14 _____

ROCK PROPHETS	BLESSED CHURCH	LIVING PEOPLE	HEAVEN CHRIST	KINGDOM KEYS
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