Mark

Purpose
To present the person, work, and teachings of Jesus

Author
John Mark was not one of the twelve Disciples but a scribe for Peter

To Whom Written
The Christians in Rome

Date Written
Between 55-65 AD

Setting
Roman Empire under Tiberius Caesar

Key People
Jesus, the Disciples, the religious leaders, Pontius Pilate

Key Places
Nazareth, Caesarea, Philippi, Jericho, Bethany, Mount of Olives, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Capernaum

Key Verse
"For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give My life as a ransom for many." *Mark 10:45*

Special Features
Mark was probably the first Gospel written. The other Gospels quote all but 31 verses of *Mark*.

An Overview (16 Chapters)

- Birth and Preparation of Jesus (*1:1-13*)
- Message and Ministry of Jesus (*1:14-13:37*)
- Death and Resurrection of Jesus (*14:1-16:20*)

Major Themes

- *Jesus Christ:* Jesus alone is the Son of God. He demonstrates His divinity by overcoming disease, demons, and death. Although He had the power to be king of the earth, Jesus chose to obey the Father and die for us.

- *Servant:* As the Messiah, Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament. He did not come as a conquering king; He came as a servant. He helped people by telling them about God and healing them. Even more, by giving His life as a sacrifice for sin, He performed the ultimate act of service.

- *Miracles:* Mark records more of Jesus' miracles than sermons. Jesus is clearly a man of power and action, not just words. Jesus did miracles to convince the people who He was and to confirm to the disciples His true identity — God in flesh.

- *Spreading the Gospel:* Jesus directed His public ministry to the Jews first. When the Jewish leaders opposed Him, Jesus also went to the non-Jewish world, healing and preaching. Roman soldiers, Syrians, and other Gentiles heard the Good News. Many believed and followed Him. Jesus' final message to His disciples challenged them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel of salvation.