

JESUS CONFIRMS THE APOSTLES' GOSPEL

Mark 16:17-20

I. **Commission** of the Good News

II. **Condition** of the Good News

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved... For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:9, 13)

I. **Commission** of the Good News

II. **Condition** of the Good News

*“Whoever **believes** in the Son **has eternal life**; whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the **wrath of God remains on him.**” (John 3:36)*

I. **Commission** of the Good News

II. **Condition** of the Good News

What did God do to give **confidence** in His one message of salvation?

What did God do to give **evidence** that the biblical message of His apostles and prophets is His authentic message of salvation for everyone who believes?

God gave us eyewitness testimony of the **context** of **His** message as it was being written (cf. 2 Peter. 1:19-21)

I. **Commission** of the Good News

II. **Condition** of the Good News

III. **Context** of the Good News

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Five signs are mentioned.

Do these five signs have anything to do with God's message and with the commission to proclaim the gospel that He gives to each Christian?

And do these verses teach that we **can** expect and **should** expect that these signs are a **necessary** part of proclaiming the gospel **today**?

III. **Context** of the Good News

“A miracle is an extraordinary event wrought by God through human agency, an event that cannot be explained by natural forces. Miracles **always** are designed to authenticate the human instrument God has chosen to declare a specific revelation to those who witness the miracle.” *(John MacArthur)*

III. **Context** of the Good News

The point here is that miracles **authenticate** the **messenger** and **message** as being from God.

Miracles in Scripture are also called **signs and wonders**:

- Exodus 7:3 – Moses and Aaron were speaking on behalf of God
- Daniel 6:26-17 – Daniel was authenticated as God's messenger bringing God's message by the signs and wonders God did through him.

III. **Context** of the Good News

“Therefore He came again to Cana of Galilee where he had made the water wine. And there was a royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and was imploring Him to come down and heal his son; for he was at the point of death. So Jesus said to him, ‘Unless you people see signs and wonders, you simply will not believe.’ The royal official said to Him, ‘Sir, come down before my child dies.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your son lives.’ The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started off. As he was now going down, his slaves met him, saying that his son was living. So he inquired of them the hour when he began to get better. Then they said to him, ‘Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him’. So the father knew that it was at that hour in which Jesus said to him, ‘Your son lives’; and he himself believed and his whole household. This is again a second sign that Jesus performed when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.” (John 4:46-54)

III. **Context** of the Good News

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.” (Acts 2:42-43)

III. **Context** of the Good News

“The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.” (2 Corinthians 12:12)

III. **Context** of the Good News

“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.” (Hebrews 2:1-4)

III. **Context** of the Good News

In each of these passages:

- **signs = semeia** (from noun, *semeion*); “That by which a person or a thing is distinguished from others and is known.”¹
- The word has the sense of “a marvelous event manifesting a supernatural act of a divine agent; often with an emphasis on communicating a divine message.”²
- *Semeia* speaks “of miracles and wonders by which God authenticates the men sent by Him, or by which men prove that the cause they are pleading is God’s.”³

1. Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon

2. Logos

3. ESL

- I. **Commission** of the Good News
- II. **Condition** of the Good News
- III. **Context** of the Good News
- IV. **Confirmation** of the Good News

There are two key phrases in verses 17-20 which help us understand how we are to frame these signs and wonders within the **context of the time** they were being done:

- Verse 17: *“... in My name...”*
- Verse 20: *“confirmed the message by accompanying signs.”*

IV. **Confirmation** of the Good News

In a nutshell, these signs were miracles being done **by** the power of God **through** the apostles to authenticate the apostles as God's **true messengers** bearing God's **genuine message** of salvation and sanctification for all who would trust in Christ for forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

IV. **Confirmation** of the Good News

These are the issues at stake here: the **authority** of God and the **sufficiency** of His Word.

When the apostles were taking this new message of salvation to the world for the first time and introducing this gospel of grace in Christ, that is, Jesus crucified and raised to life for the forgiveness of sins, God graciously **confirmed** His message as His authentic good news by these attending signs and wonders in His messengers – **at that time!**

IV. **Confirmation** of the Good News

We don't need any additional confirmation because God has already provided it for us in what He wrote down in eyewitness testimonies as this was happening through His apostles.

The proof has been established.

Our **commission** is to **proclaim this message** already confirmed for us by God.

IV. **Confirmation** of the Good News

We do **not** need these signs and wonders to attend our proclamation precisely because God has already confirmed which message is His through signs and wonders.

IV. **Confirmation** of the Good News

How does **your part** in the Great Commission fit with what Jesus gave the apostles to proclaim?

When we faithfully proclaim the gospel, *“we are ambassadors for Christ, God making **His** appeal through **us**.”*

IV. **Confirmation** of the Good News

Why did Jesus do signs, wonders, and miracles?

“Therefore many other signs [attesting miracles] Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30-31)

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