

MARK 1:14-15

“REPENT AND BELIEVE”

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

What is the Good News? According to Jesus it is that the kingdom of God is near, starting now. The word Jesus used for kingdom here signifies the reign of God rather than the realm of God. In other words, it is not a place but a circumstance. What Jesus is declaring is that the rule of God is breaking into the world through his ministry in the world. For a people oppressed by foreign enemies, religious authorities, evil and sin, this is good news indeed. The sovereign God is the only power that can deliver them, and his power has finally come to them.

However, for this power to be realized in one’s life there is a catch – a responsibility. Obviously one must believe that this is good news and that it has arrived. Such belief is an act of faith; faith that that is God’s intention and faith in the truthfulness of the One proclaiming that fact. In addition to believing the message intellectually, one must respond to the message by an act of the will, which is what we call “repentance.” He must turn away from his own way of reacting to the world and living in the world and turn toward God’s way. The ultimate proof of our belief in his intention and the truth of Jesus is the submission to God’s purpose and will.

What areas of your life are getting in the way of whole hearted submission to God? How will you attempt to make God truly sovereign in your life today?

With your first coming, Lord Jesus, the Kingdom of God was made manifest in the world. Through your Holy Spirit convict me of the areas of my life that have been resistant to the good news of God’s kingdom reign. Help me to reject those things so that I might be totally submitted to your gracious rule. Amen.