And These Signs Will Accompany Those Who Believe

Tony Mauck · Mark 16:17–18

INTRODUCTION

- Mark Wolford dead at age forty four died of a rattlesnake bite.
- My beliefs about this passage are strong. I believe what these passages are saying, but that doesn't mean in my practice in the 21st century that I'm going to be handling poisonous snakes in this pulpit.

1 What the Issue Is Not

- The issue is not the power of God and his ability to cause these kinds of signs to be performed.
- And the issue is not whether or not believers actually did these things that Jesus talks about in Mark 16, 17 and 18, because I affirm to you that they did.
- I don't hold to things merely because they are my religious tradition.

2 This Scripture in Mark 16 Is Misunderstood

Mark 16:11–16; Acts 28:1–6

- The real issue here is that this scripture in Mark 16, 17 and 18 is misunderstood.
- Jesus is dealing with a problem of unbelief among his disciples when he was risen.
- These signs will accompany those who have believed. Now you see, he's again emphasizing the importance of belief.
- He shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.

3 The Nature and Purpose of These Signs

Acts 8:12–17; 1 Corinthians 13:8–10

- The issue really is the very nature and purpose of these miraculous signs.
- They were to confirm in the midst of any other kind of objective data that this person spoke from God, that he was a representative from God.
- They lay their hands on them. And they receive the Holy Spirit. They receive the ability to do these miraculous signs, which are going to be important because they don't have a written copy of the new covenant.
- Paul would later say in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 that such spiritual gifts were only temporary anyway.
- Mark 16 is not talking about all believers for all time, but a limited number of believers for a limited time.

4 These Incidents Undermine Trust in the Bible

- These incidents undermine people's trust and confidence in the Bible.
- It's a misunderstanding of scripture. But in the process, this thing gets plastered on the news, and you say, Yeah, see, you really can't trust the Bible.
- The message has been completely and finally revealed. We don't need signs. We walk by faith, not by sight.
- And that's the devil. He wants people to not believe in the scripture.

5 Discontented With Simple New Testament Worship

- People are discontented with simple New Testament worship from the heart.
- If he would have bid you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more? Just simply wash and be cleansed.
- We need to listen to God's word, and when it says worship, sing, pray, preach, give, take of the Lord's Supper. We need to be content with that instruction.
- If you love God, you'll find plenty of satisfaction and thrill and simple singing to the throne of your Maker.

6 Drawing People by Wrong Means to Wrong Things

John 6:53–68

- We need to be careful that we don't buy into trying to draw people by wrong things. By wrong means to wrong things.
- The Lord is not interested in just attracting people for attraction's sake.
- Will you also go away? And then Peter said, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.
- He does not wish to draw people by carnal methods who exalt the flesh over the spirit.

THE CHALLENGE

If you've not done what does apply to every person in every place at every time, he who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

MY NOTES