

Mark 16:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Analysis

Mark concludes: 'they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following' (ἐκεῖνοι δὲ ἐξελθόντες ἐκήρυξαν πανταχοῦ, τοῦ κυρίου συνεργοῦντος καὶ τὸν λόγον βεβαιοῦντος διὰ τῶν ἐπακολουθούντων σημείων). This summarizes apostolic mission. The disciples 'preached everywhere' (ekēryxan pantachou, ἐκήρυξαν πανταχοῦ)—universal gospel proclamation. Crucial detail: 'the Lord working with them' (tou kyriou synergountos, τοῦ κυρίου συνεργοῦντος)—Jesus, though ascended, actively partnered in their ministry through the Spirit. God 'confirmed the word with signs' (bebaiountos dia tōn sēmeiōn, βεβαιοῦντος διὰ τῶν σημείων)—miracles authenticated apostolic message (Acts 2:43; 4:30; 5:12; Hebrews 2:3-4). This pattern continues—Christ works through His church by the Spirit, confirming gospel truth. Mission isn't human effort alone but divine-human cooperation. The risen, ascended Lord empowers and accompanies His people in spreading the gospel to all nations.

Historical Context

The book of Acts records this apostolic mission's fulfillment—Peter preached at Pentecost (Acts 2), Philip in Samaria (Acts 8), Paul to Gentiles (Acts 9-28). The gospel spread from Jerusalem to Rome and beyond. 'Signs following' included healings (Acts 3:1-10; 5:12-16; 9:32-35), exorcisms (Acts 5:16; 8:7; 16:16-18), resurrections (Acts 9:36-42; 20:9-12), and miraculous deliverances (Acts 12:6-11;

16:25-26). These signs authenticated apostolic authority and gospel truth (2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4). Early church experienced divine presence and power, fulfilling Jesus' promise that greater works would be done through believers (John 14:12). Church history shows gospel's spread 'everywhere'—by AD 300, Christianity existed throughout Roman Empire and beyond. Christ's ongoing work through His church continues until His return.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the phrase 'the Lord working with them' demonstrate that Christian mission is divine-human partnership, not mere human effort?
2. What role do 'signs following' play in confirming gospel truth, and how does this apply to contemporary ministry?

Interlinear Text

ἐκεῖνοι	δὲ	ἐξελθόντες	ἐκήρυξαν	πανταχοῦ	τοῦ	κυρίου
they	And	went forth	and preached	every where	G3588	the Lord
G1565	G1161	G1831	G2784	G3837		G2962

συνεργοῦντος	καὶ	τὸν	λόγον	βεβαιοῦντος	διὰ	τῶν
working with	them and	G3588	the word	confirming	with	G3588
G4903	G2532		G3056	G950	G1223	

ἐπακολουθούντων	σημείων	Ἀμήν
following	signs	Amen
G1872	G4592	G281

Additional Cross-References

Acts 14:3 (Kingdom): Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Hebrews 2:4 (Parallel theme): God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Romans 15:19 (Parallel theme): Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Acts 5:12 (Parallel theme): And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

Acts 4:30 (Parallel theme): By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

2 Corinthians 6:1 (Parallel theme): We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

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