

## Editorial

This issue is devoted to the Southern Baptist Convention's January Bible Study book, the Gospel of Mark. Notwithstanding synoptic research on the issue of Markan priority, the study of Mark's gospel has largely been neglected in comparison with the other gospels. This relative neglect is unfortunate because Mark's gospel challenges its readers with an especially powerful message. Mark emphasizes—more so than the other gospels—the cost of discipleship. He presents Jesus as the suffering Son of Man and urges his readers to take up their crosses like Christ did.

Our guest contributor to this issue is Dr. Craig Evans, the Payzant Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Acadia Divinity College, Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. He is the author of numerous scholarly works, including a volume on Mark in the Word Biblical Commentary series. Evans contributes to this journal an extremely helpful article titled, "The Gospel of Mark in Current Study."

This issue also contains three inspirational sermons based on texts from Mark's gospel. First, Dr. R. Philip Roberts contributes "Is That Your Final Answer?" a gospel sermon from Mark 10:17-22 on the rich young ruler's encounter with Jesus. Second, in "Three Requirements for Following Jesus," Dr. Walter Norvell soberly reminds us from Mark 8:34 to take up our crosses. Third, Dr. Michael McMullen supplies "Edwards was Extraordinary," an article which includes a previously unpublished sermon from Mark 2:17 preached by Jonathan Edwards.

In my article titled, "The Heart of Mark's Gospel," I briefly discuss not only the central message of this biblical book, but also how Mark structured his material on the cost of discipleship.

Finally, though he does not contribute from Mark, Radu Gheorghiiță fittingly asks in his article whether Scripture memorization has any place in biblical studies. His answer is a resounding "Yes!"

Should not the latter practice find increase in our lives more than ever, especially as we take Mark's message to heart, counting the costs and seeking to be Christ's disciples? I think so.

To God's glory—Enjoy!

Terry L. Wilder, Editor