

“Prepare”

Based on Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)

December 3, 2017

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Mark 1:1 - The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,

† **Mark wrote this book around 70 AD.**

† **Mark is writing this for the Christians in Rome, where many gods were worshiped.**

Mark 1:2-3

2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" —

3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

† **Mark wanted his readers to know that Jesus is *the one* “Messiah” ... *the one* “Son of God”.**

Mark 1:4 - And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

† **In Roman society, important officials of this day were always preceded by an announcer or herald.**

† **Who is the herald in our story? John the Baptist.**

† **Who is the important “official” who will be coming? Jesus Christ.**

† **The word “prepare” refers to making something ready.**

† **God’s purpose for John the Baptist was to prepare the people to accept Jesus as God’s Son.**

† **To prepare for Jesus in my life:**

1) Prepare my soul.

2) Prepare my mind.

3) Prepare myself.

Applying Today’s Message to My Life:

† Do I prepare for things a lot in advance or at the last moment?

† What clutter do I need to remove from my “path” of life?

† How do I prepare to listen to God in my life?

† What is one way I can better prepare my soul? My mind? My-self? for the Messiah this season?