

## The End of Mark

### The Issue and Its Significance

1. Do we end Mark 16 with verse eight or with verse twenty?
2. Some have argued that since including or excluding verses nine-twenty will not result in the addition or deletion of any narratives or theological truths that are not found elsewhere in the Bible, it is not all that important to consider this issue. The validity or invalidity of twelve verses is, however, always a weighty matter for those of us who wish to follow God's Word (II Timothy 3:16-17 and Revelation 22:18-19). In the verses before us we have accounts of our Lord's resurrection, the Great Commission, the Ascension, the Session at God's right hand, and the role of the "sign gifts" in the early church. To include them or to exclude them should be given great consideration.

### External (textual) Consideration

1. The v\_\_\_\_\_ m\_\_\_\_\_ of the 5,000 or so surviving Greek manuscripts include the l\_\_\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Three do not, including the two that most textual critics believe are the o\_\_\_\_\_ and m\_\_\_\_\_ reliable manuscripts.
3. The writings of e\_\_\_\_\_ c\_\_\_\_\_ f\_\_\_\_\_ indicate that the s\_\_\_\_\_ and l\_\_\_\_\_ endings were in circulation at an early date.
4. I think external evidence f\_\_\_\_\_ inclusion of the longer ending.

### Internal Evidence

1. Many believe verses seven and eight end t\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_ to be Mark's original intended e\_\_\_\_\_. Some argue that we have l\_\_\_\_\_ his e\_\_\_\_\_ or that he was i\_\_\_\_\_ before it could be completed. Stonehouse, I think rightly, concludes that the p\_\_\_\_\_ fittingly ends with the women at the empty tomb being filled with c\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_. I do think, however, this would be an a\_\_\_\_\_

w\_\_\_\_\_ to end the book (with a preposition and without any post-resurrection appearances of Jesus).

2. I think the strongest argument for the s\_\_\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_ is the seeming “d\_\_\_\_\_” between verses eight and nine.
3. Many argue that the s\_\_\_\_\_ and v\_\_\_\_\_ of verses 9-20 are not Markan. Hendriksen, for example, claims there are f\_\_\_\_\_ words or p\_\_\_\_\_ that occur here that do not occur elsewhere in the gospel. However, there are s\_\_\_\_\_ such words or phrases by the count of another scholar in Mark 15:44-16:8.
4. I am even more confident that i\_\_\_\_\_ e\_\_\_\_\_ supports the i\_\_\_\_\_ of the longer ending. Hence, the three-part sermon.