



LESSON #2 - WHAT IS THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL?

Introduction

Revelation 14:6, 7: *"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth — to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷ saying with a loud voice: 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.'"*

This is the **only time** the word “gospel” is used in the **writings of John**.

Why is it called “everlasting”?

Back to the Beginning of Human History

Adam and Eve were **created** holy, innocent, righteous:

Literal robe of light = **Symbolized** righteousness, obedience to the Law

When Adam and Eve **sinned** they were **disrobed** and left **naked**:

Literal nakedness = **Symbolized** unrighteousness, guilt and disobedience to the Law

The law demands a **perfect life** and if you do not offer a perfect life you **must die**—the wages of sin is death.

Read and study **Romans 6:23** (**Mr. Sin** an equal opportunity employer, no unemployment)

“For the wages of sin is death. . .”

Genesis 2:17

“ . . . but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Not **eventually** but **immediately!!** They should have died that **very day**. **Why** did they not die that very day?

According to the apostle Paul **dying is the ultimate nakedness** (II Corinthians 5:2-4)

Eternal Gospel plan

They did not die that very day because of a plan that had been laid in the ages of eternity

The plan involved two specific points: The choosing of a **perfect lamb** and the **death of that Lamb**. This was not some **last minute emergency plan** but rather a **contingency plan** laid out in eternity past **in case** man should sin. God was **not caught by surprise** and said: **Oh, Oh**, what are we going to do now?

I Peter 1:18-20

“ . . . knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”

Gospel Plan announced

Tried to cover nakedness with **fig leaves**:

Genesis 3:7

“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”

God says: “**You cannot cover** your nakedness yourself no matter **how much you try**.”

Promises to **send a seed** to crush the head of the **serpent**

Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.”

How would this be done?

A perfect lamb died **that very day** and the **death** of the Lamb would **provide the garments** that would **cover their nakedness**

Genesis 3:21:

*“Also for Adam and his wife the **Lord God made** tunics of **skin**, and [He] clothed them.”*

Abraham had said to his son Isaac: "My son, *God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.*" (*Genesis 22:8*)

The Gospel Plan Foreshadowed

God established the **sacrificial system** in Israel to **foreshadow** what would happen in the **future**

Priest without blemish:

Leviticus 21:17-21

"Speak to Aaron, saying: 'No man of your descendants in succeeding generations, who has any defect, may approach to offer the bread of his God. ¹⁸ For any man who has a defect shall not approach: a man blind or lame, who has a marred face or any limb too long, ¹⁹ a man who has a broken foot or broken hand, ²⁰ or is a hunchback or a dwarf, or a man who has a defect in his eye, or eczema or scab, or is a eunuch. ²¹ No man of the descendants of Aaron the priest, who has a defect, shall come near to offer the offerings made by fire to the Lord. He has a defect; he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God.'"

Leviticus 22:20-22: Perfect Victim

"Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf. ²¹ And whoever offers a sacrifice of a peace offering to the Lord, to fulfill his vow, or a freewill offering from the cattle or the sheep, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it. ²² Those that are blind or broken or maimed, or have an ulcer or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the Lord, nor make an offering by fire of them on the altar to the Lord."

Thus an unblemished **priest** offered an unblemished **sacrifice**

This system could **not really remove** sin. It was a system of **IOU'S**. Sin was **not legally dealt** with except by God's **promise**.

Hebrews 10:4

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins."

The Gospel Gift

Jesus who **created all** human beings could offer to **live the perfect life** that we should live and **die the death** that we should die. By living and dying he would **weave a perfect robe** of righteousness to **cover our nakedness**.

He had to do **two things**: Live the **perfect life** that the **Law demands** of us and **die the death** that the **Law demands** from us.

Jesus was the **unblemished priest**

Hebrews 4:15:

"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Hebrews 7:26:

"For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens."

Jesus was the unblemished victim

I Peter 1:18-19

"... knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

His life and death he offered for the whole world

I John 2:2

"And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Begotten Son. . ."

Isaiah 53:6

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

Galatians 3:13

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")

Claiming The Gospel Gift**The last part of Romans 6:23: (NAS)**

"... but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The deposit in the Bank of the Universe

Suppose there is someone in the world who is very, very rich, who has more money than anyone else and out of the goodness of his heart, decides he will pay off the debts of every living soul on earth, and he has deposited into the Bank of the Universe all the resources needed to cover all these debts. All we, the debtors, need to do to obtain these funds is to go to the bank and withdraw what we need to give us a clean slate. This is exactly what Jesus Christ has done for

us, each individual. He has paid the price of our eternal salvation and all we have to do is to accept his marvelous gift and we can live throughout eternity with Him with all of our sins erased. What a wonderful Savior we have!!!

Another illustration: I have been on an extensive trip and I wish to surprise my wife with a very expensive gift when I return home. I purchase the gift and have it beautifully gift-wrapped but I don't trust putting it in my suitcase so I have a special container that I can carry and keep it with me on the long trip home. As I travel, my thoughts are how happy she will be with this special gift and I can hardly wait to see the look on her face when she opens it up. Lo and behold, when she opens the package and looks at it she doesn't like it. My heart is broken because she doesn't want it and refuses to take it. This is what Jesus has done for each of us -- He has this wonderful gift of Salvation for each of us and we don't accept it. He has paid the price for us with His blood and we don't appreciate it and refuse to accept it. He has done all He could for us but we have to accept it. He is broken-hearted but He cannot force us to accept it. It's up to us to reach out and take it.

John 3:16

"... that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Matthew 26:27, 28

*"Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.
²⁸ For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*

Acts 2:38

"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Acts 5:30, 31

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins."

Acts 10:43

"To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

Hebrews 7:25

"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

I John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Galatians 3:26, 27

²⁶ “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

I John 2:1

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

The Gospel Fruit

The gospel changes the lifestyle—the way we talk, the way we eat, the way we use our time, what we watch, what we listen to, where we go, how we use our money, how we treat others.

Many Christians emphasize only the objective imputation of Christ’s righteousness. They see the Gospel as an easy way to get off the hook. They say: “He paid so that I don’t have to pay”

The verb “saying. . .” in the first angel’s message shows that the change of lifestyle is **included** in the proclamation of the gospel.

The gospel not only affords us great benefits and privileges but also entails great obligations and responsibilities.

Titus 2:11-14

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us [just like in the first angel’s message it says: ‘saying’] that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

James 2:14-24

“What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can [such a faith] faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? ¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me

your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble!²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only."

A personal example of mercy experience by Pastor Bohr: He was on his way home from Prayer Meeting one night feeling exceptionally blessed. All of a sudden, he spotted blinking red and blue lights in the rear view mirror. He pulled over and a policeman came over and talked with him a bit about his speed which he acknowledged. After a few minutes conversation, the policeman informed him this was just a warning --- he wasn't going to give him a ticket even though he deserved one. The policeman even wished him well in his work as a preacher. Did the policeman do well? NO. If the law was broken, he was required to enforce it. Grace would be if he paid the ticket in Pastor Bohr's place.

Preaching the Gospel

Show how **Revelation 14** points to what **Jesus did** but it also **calls upon us** to **fear** God, **give Him glory** and **worship Him** in especially in light of the **judgment**.

This shows that **sanctification** is involved in **preaching** the Gospel as well as justification. When the gospel is preached to the world the **end will come**.

Revelation 14:6,7

"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷ saying with a loud voice: "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Gospel celebration

Revelation 7:9-10

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Luke 15:4-6

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his

friends and neighbors, saying to them: 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'