

# The Gospel

#0299

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 2, 1977

I invite your attention tonight to the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 6<sup>th</sup> verse of Revelation. There is an expression in this opening verse that introduces the threefold message of Revelation 14 that we want to meditate on this evening.

“...I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven,  
having...” Revelation 14:6.

What?

“the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on  
the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue,  
and people” Revelation 14:6.

Then follows the message.

We’ve looked at some of those thoughts this evening, as I say, we want to meditate on one expression in that sixth verse—“the everlasting gospel.”

Some translations give it—“an eternal gospel.”

What is the Gospel? Well, the word “Gospel” means good news. And the eternal Gospel or the everlasting Gospel is the good news about our Heavenly Father. He’s on our side, not against us. He loves us. He’s watching for opportunities to bless us, and help us, and save us.

We’re going to look at several texts about the Gospel tonight. In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul tells us some things about the Gospel.

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel...”  
1 Corinthians 15:1.

“I have some good news.”

“...the gospel which I preached unto you...”  
1 Corinthians 15:1.

You see, Paul had raised up this church in Corinth. He was writing to his converts. “I am telling you again,” he says, “the same good news that I gave you by word of mouth when I was there.”

“...which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain”  
1 Corinthians 15:1–2.

What does the Gospel bring according to this second verse? Salvation.

May I call attention to this fact, friends? It is not the Gospel that saves us. The Gospel is the good news about the One who saves us, and that's Jesus Christ. No message in itself can lift us from sin to holiness, from death to life. Only the Life-giver can do this. And the Gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ.

And so he follows on in the third and fourth verses:

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures” 1 Corinthians 15:3–4.

This is the Gospel that Paul preached at Corinth, and caused sinners of every kind and strife to get hope as they looked at the crucified Nazarene and found that He had the answer to their questions, the solution to their problems. Does He still? Oh, yes. This is the Gospel, the good news.

Romans 1:15–17: Paul is writing to Rome. He's never been there, but some of his converts have been there, some of his friends are there, those that he hasn't met yet, he's writing to them in anticipation of the trip that he hopes to make. It so happened, in the providence of God, that when he finally arrived at Rome, it was in chains. But that didn't keep him from carrying out his purpose, fulfilling his mission.

“So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also” Romans 1:15.

What did he want to do in Rome? Preach the Gospel. Tell the good news. Announce the glad tidings. And then comes this matchless statement.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein...”  
Romans 1:16–17.

That is in the Gospel.

“...is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith”  
Romans 1:17.

Now here we have enough to study for a week. But let's look for a few minutes at some of these wonderful statements. Paul says:

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...” Romans 1:16.

Suppose here is a man, he is a salesman for automobiles. He brings a car out to demonstrate it. He says, “Wouldn’t you like to go for a ride?” So we get in the car with him, and he starts up this hill here. About halfway up, it begins to puff, slow down, and finally it almost stops. How would the salesman feel? He’d be embarrassed, wouldn’t he? He’d be ashamed.

Now Paul says, “I am not ashamed,” of what? “The Gospel of Christ: for it is the power.” Now that word that is translated “power” here comes from the same word that we get dynamo or dynamite—real power, a potential to do something, to get something done. So Paul says writing to these people in Rome and to us, for it is all for us too, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power... unto salvation.” The power of whom? The power of God.

Think of that mighty power. This is the power that spoke the world into existence:

“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth” Psalm 33:6.

“For He spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast” Psalm 33:9.

That creative power that made the world and all things in it is operating now in what? In the Gospel.

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth” Romans 1:16.

I wonder what this salvation is from anyway? Someone suggests, what do you think this salvation is from? Salvation from sin; anything else? From self, death, deception; sin and all its results, all its fruits. You remember that before the Savior was born, the angel who announced His coming said:

“...call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins” Matthew 1:21.

Salvation is from sin. Disease is one of the results of transgression. Death is the final result. But Jesus came, and that’s the good news of the Gospel, to save us from sin and all its results. Will He get it done? Yes.

Hold your place here in Romans, and I want you to turn over to Hebrews 9:28, where we will get another wonderful text about this matter of salvation, the good news of the Gospel.

“So Christ was once offered...”

To do what?

“...to bear the sins of many...”

Is that the end of the verse? No.

“...and unto them that look for him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation” Hebrews 9:28.

You mean He’s coming to bring salvation? Yes. Yes, He’s coming to bring salvation. He’s coming to bring salvation from death, from all the ills of this life, to those who have already let Him bring the salvation from sin that He died to make possible.

In other words, the Gospel, dear friends, is the good news about what Jesus did, and what He will do. What He did in Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Jerusalem, on the cross, the resurrection, what He’s doing now in Heaven as our Mediator, our Intercessor, our Great High Priest, and what He’s going to do at His second coming to destroy them that destroy the earth, and to rescue His waiting people. All this is included in the Gospel. It takes the whole picture to give us the total good news that He came to make clear.

Now let’s go back to Romans the first chapter:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...” Romans 1:16.

Now let’s take this and apply first to the last picture. This picture that we just looked at in the last lines of Hebrews 9:28. Won’t it be a wonderful manifestation of power when Jesus and all the holy angels come from Heaven down to this world? Won’t that be a glorious scene, friends?

Think of it, the whole sky just ablaze with glory, filled with myriad forms of the angels. There is Jesus seated on the cloud—went away with the cloud, coming back with the clouds. Then that silver trumpet sounds and the voice of the Son of God awakens the sleeping saints.

Have you some loved one who sleeps in the arms of Jesus? Have you some dear one that’s waiting in the grave for that resurrection morning? Won’t that be a wonderful thing? It was a marvelous thing when Jesus raised one man from the grave. What was his name? Lazarus. The creative Word spoke to that decaying corpse, and life pulsated through his veins and nerves, and a man that had been dead came forth. But here, oh thank God, millions of sleeping saints are going to arise from their graves! And the righteous, who are living, will be translated.

Let’s turn over to 1 Corinthians 15. I want you to see this wonderful picture. This is part of the salvation, part of the good news made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” 1 Corinthians 15:51–53.

Won't that be a wonderful thing, friend? Bodies doomed to death, changed to immortality! I hope to live to that hour, but whether I do or not, that's in God's hands. I'm going to be there either way. God knows which way will be best for me. Either way, I'm going to meet Him in the air with a glorified immortal body.

I say, dear friends, isn't that wonderful power? The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. You mentioned a while ago that salvation is from death as well as from sin. Now the 54<sup>th</sup> verse:

“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” 1 Corinthians 15:54–55.

Is there still a lot of death around this planet? Oh yes, friend! But what about the salvation that Jesus came to bring? Paul says writing to Timothy that:

“Christ abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” 2 Timothy 1:10.

Thank God we have eternal life in Christ, but the full realization of it in these bodies of ours awaits His second coming.

That's what we read there in Hebrews 9:28, that “Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many, and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin,” no longer to deal with sin, “unto salvation”—salvation from disease and death, salvation from all the ills that mortal flesh has erred to. Oh friends, what a blessed hope! What do you say?

Now back once again to Romans 1. Watch this point now. If Jesus has sufficient power to come down from Heaven on the last day and raise all the dead, and translate the living who are ready to meet Him, if He has that power, has He got any power now? Why friend, all the power He'll ever have, He has tonight. For it is written:

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever”  
Hebrews 13:8.

He won't be any stronger then.

“Well,” somebody says, “why doesn't He come tonight?” Well, He does things in order, friends. We need the Gospel operating in our characters before it makes us

immortal. If you stop to think about it, that's a merciful provision on God's part. It would be too bad to take somebody who was miserable himself all the time and making other people miserable and make him immortal. Wouldn't that be terrible?

So the first work of the Gospel is not to make us immortal, thank the Lord. It's to make us so that immortality will be a blessing to us, instead of a curse. It's to get us shaped up, molded, changed, so that eternal life will be a constantly increasing joy. And what that means in very simple terms is this: it means getting rid of sin.

Sin is the only thing that ever made any trouble in this universe. God never made any trouble. Did He? No. God is love. And love is what makes us happy. Why then would anybody break God's law, the law of love? Well, that's the mystery of sin. Sin is a mystery. Never try to explain sin. Never try to explain why some sinner keeps on in sin because there is no sane explanation for it. It doesn't make sense. It doesn't add up.

Whether it's puffing cigarettes that lead to lung cancer or any other thing, transgression of the law, whether physical, mental, or spiritual, leads to unhappiness, disease, and death. Of course, Satan has camouflaged it with many sensations that people interpret as pleasure, but it's fictitious, it's unreal. The real happiness is harmony with God, which is harmony with the universe. So the first work of the Gospel, I repeat, is not to make us immortal. It is to make us free from sin.

Now let us notice how the Gospel operates in this area.

“...I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” Romans 1:16.

Let's repeat John 3:16 together:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

This is the Gospel! This is the good news. By the way, you boys and girls, if you want something interesting to do some time during the next 24 hours, try this: Write down the left-hand side of the page, one letter under the other, G-O-S-P-E-L. What does that spell? Gospel. When you've done that, written 'Gospel,' one letter under the other—G-O-S-P-E-L—then start in there in John 3:16 and find in order the words that begin with those letters. It's all there in John 3:16, and in that order. Of course some of the lines will be a little longer than others. *You* try it.

All right, that's just to help us remember that the Gospel is in John 3:16. Let's say it again together:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

Now, what is it that God is seeking to accomplish through this gift? If we believe in Him, then we won't need to what? We won't need to perish. But instead, we can have what? Everlasting life.

In these two verses preceding this, Christ is explaining to Nicodemus just how this is accomplished:

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”  
John 3:14–15.

Then He gave what we name as John 3:16.

You remember there in Numbers 21, it tells the story of how the children of Israel traveling through the desert got so complaining and murmuring, that God finally let the poisonous snakes that he had been protecting them from come into the camp and they began to bite the people, and burning fevers consumed a number and they finally cried to Moses in repentance, and Moses cried to the Lord.

God said, “Moses, make a serpent of brass and put it up on a pole. Put it in the camp where all who will can see it, up high. Then tell all the people that anybody that's been bitten by a serpent *look* to this brazen serpent on the pole, and he'll live.”

What a strange way to cure a snakebite. But the people that followed the directions got well; the ones that didn't died. You know it's important to have a good doctor, and it's also important to follow his directions. Isn't it friends? Christ was the Physician of Israel, and His prescription, although it seemed strange, was to teach them a great lesson that it is by looking away from ourselves to the One uplifted on the cross that we find the cure for sin and all its results.

As that serpent to which they looked, that serpent made of brass was made in the likeness of that which had bitten them, so Christ came, as Paul says in Romans 8:3, “made in the likeness of sinful flesh.” And as that serpent was lifted up on that pole, so Christ was lifted up on the cross. That's what He says here in John 3:14–16.

And what was the lesson? Look and live.

Ah but some scientific minds say, “I don't see any sense in that. I don't see any therapeutic power in looking at anything, much less a serpent of brass on a pole.”

May I say to you, friends, that the power was not in the pole nor what hung on it, nor in the looking of the people. The power, the miracle-working power was in *Christ* Who chose to perform His work of healing for everyone that would *respond* to His command. Everyone that would look to Him would live. And so, as the ladies were singing just a little while ago:

Not the labor of my hands

Can fulfill Thy laws demands;  
In my hand no price I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling,  
Rock of Ages cleft for me  
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Oh, I'm so glad, dear friend, that Jesus is in the business of saving people from sin. And He does it as they behold Him—as they see His death.

Now, what did Jesus accomplish by dying upon the cross? He took the penalty that I deserved through sin. But more than that, dear friend; He not only made it possible to pardon my sin because of His paying the debt, He made it possible to change my heart as I behold His love there revealed. Both of those things must be accomplished for me if I'm to be truly saved. I must be pardoned from my past, for the sentence of death hangs over me. But oh, more than that, on beyond that, my heart must be changed so that I don't go back, don't go back.

Peter, in his epistle, speaks of some who had turned away from the message of God, and he said it had happened to them according to the old proverb:

“...the dog is returned to his own vomit again, and  
the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire”  
2 Peter 2:22.

Do you get the picture?

Some years ago, my wife was visiting a friend. The friend was going for an errand in town; my wife went along with her. One of her errands was at the express office. While waiting there, my wife observed a little pig in a crate. He must have been a very special pig to be taking a journey by express. Probably a pedigreed pig, you understand. Somebody had taken the trouble to wash him up, clean him up. I think he was even powdered up a bit.

But I want to ask you something. When he got to his destination and they turned him loose, do you know where he headed? Where do you think he headed? He went to the hog wallow, didn't he? You could have taken him out of there a dozen times a day and washed him up, and if you turned him loose, he would go back. Why? Because he's a pig. That's his nature.

Oh, my friends, no matter how much Jesus does in washing us up and forgiving our sins unless He can get hold of our natures and *change them*, we'll keep going back to the hog wallow again and again. Won't we? Have we had any experience in that? Have we had repeated battles with tobacco or alcohol or some other physical habit? Or what's a lot harder, a battle with some inward trait of character like losing temper, getting mad, as we say, and pouring forth a torrent of angry words, or being envious and jealous, or gloomy, casting shadows on all those around us, or telling lies, or cheating, stealing. It's a long list.

I thank God for Paul's statement here:



“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” Romans 1:16.

Oh, is there power? Yes. Power first of all to pardon all my sins. As Wesley sings, “Plenteous grace with Thee is found; grace to pardon all my sin.” But thank God, there’s more: “Let the healing streams abound make and keep me pure within.” It’s this double work that Jesus wants to accomplish for us. That’s what the good news of the Gospel is all about. Not only pardon for sin, but power to change our hearts so that we no longer *choose* to go back to the hog wallow.

Why God is going to deliver us so fully from that that He can let us go anywhere in this universe perfectly safe. No policeman to watch us, no minister, pastor, to go along with us to be sure that we’re walking in the right track. Everybody perfectly safe anywhere in the universe, doing exactly what he wants to do, always wanting the right thing. Friend, I say that’s power. What do you say? Transforming power! Thank God it’s going on now!

May I ask you a question? Have any of you experienced on *one* thing even—just think of one thing—have you experienced the fact that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation? You know that God has made a change in your life, and you know that He did it—may I see your hand? Thank God, dear friends.

Do you think He can do some more? Praise His name. The only reason He started it—He intended to finish it. That’s what the Sabbath is a sign of. It’s a sign of a finished work. God started this world with nothing, and at the end of the week, He had the whole thing finished—perfectly good, beautiful, a completed job. So He rested, His work was finished. And He asked Adam and Eve to join Him in that wonderful Sabbath of rest, a memorial of the completed work. And thus week-by-week as the Sabbath comes to you and me, God wants us to rejoice in His power to finish what He starts. To finish what He starts.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” Romans 1:16.

What does believing have to do with it? Those people back there in the desert that looked when they were bitten with the serpent and looked to the one on the pole that God had told them to, they showed that they did what? They believed what Moses had said that God had told him to say. And when you and I look to Jesus on the cross as the atonement for our sins, as the One who pays the price for our past rebellion, and as the One who has power to change us now, we’re believing in Him. We’re believing in Him.

Would you like to kneel with me while we all talk to Jesus?

Precious Lord, we thank Thee for the good news: the good news that someday these mortal bodies subject to disease and death, shall be touched by Thy creative power and made immortal, never more to suffer pain, or to experience

death. We thank Thee that even now that power is operating to take the sin out of our heart that has made all these problems.

Tonight we bring our wounds for Thy healing, our hearts for Thy cleansing. We pray first of all that the precious blood of Jesus shall cover our sins that our guilt may all be taken from us. We pray also for the changing work, the transforming work in our hearts. Give us a love for Thy way, and a hatred for the sins that have made Thee sorry and brought pain to ourselves and to others. We thank Thee that Thou art hearing us.

Just now, all through this audience, there are those who would like in a special way to give themselves to Jesus and ask for His blessing. Will you just raise your hand where you are kneeling? I know the dear Lord will see and hear you. Lord, Thou sees each hand, and we know that the hand of Jesus reaches out to take our little hand and to save and bless us. We praise Thee for Thy goodness, and we believe, and we thank Thee that those who believe receive the Savior in His saving power. Through His name, we thank Thee. Amen.

[Testimony service]

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