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The Everlasting Gospel



“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” (**Revelation 14:6**).



An Amazing Fact: After Spartacus' slave revolt was put down in 71 BC, the Romans crucified 6,000 insurgents to discourage future revolts. Crosses lined the road outside of Rome for miles. Dying from crucifixion could take anywhere between one to four days.

One of the most moving and dramatic depictions of salvation in the Bible is the account of the thief on the cross. When Jesus was crucified, two thieves were also crucified beside Him, “one on His right and the other on His left” (Mark 15:27). While Jesus was innocent of any wrongdoing, the two thieves were guilty of serious crimes and were now facing the agony of capital punishment by crucifixion.

When nailed to the cross, both thieves at first joined the crowd in mocking Jesus (Matthew 27:39–44). However, as the hours of misery dragged on, one thief experienced a radical change of heart. When the other thief continued taunting Jesus (Luke 23:39), the repentant thief called out:

Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong (vv. 40, 41).

Amid his own pain and the unbelief of the surrounding crowd, the thief saw Jesus' love, goodness, and forgiveness on display. He finally understood who Jesus was. And in a powerful expression of faith, he turned to the Savior and said, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom” (v. 42).

Did Jesus reprimand the thief for having mocked Him earlier or remind him of his past misdeeds? Did the Lord say, “Don’t bother me now—I have my own problems”? No! In response to the criminal’s contrite plea, Jesus responded immediately. Full of compassion, He promised that the helpless, dying sinner would be saved and would be with Him in paradise (v. 43).

This brief account beautifully illustrates the everlasting gospel, what the first angel of Revelation 14 carries to the whole world in the last days. Let’s find out what it really means ...





When you see a blank, look up the passage in your Bible and write in the missing word.

1. What is the central theme of Revelation 14?

Revelation 14:6. *I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the _____ to preach to those who dwell on the earth.*

ANSWER: The “gospel,” which means “good news,” is God’s plan of salvation. It is the truth that Jesus lived and died for the salvation of the entire human race. The gospel in the three angels’ messages is specifically qualified as being “everlasting.” Jesus’ salvation lasts forever; it gives you eternal life, the ultimate salvation.

2. Why do we need the everlasting gospel?

James 1:15. *When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth _____.*

Romans 3:23. *For _____ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

ANSWER: When Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s law in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1–6), they opened the door to the disease of sin for the entire human race. Ever since, all have chosen to pass through that door; every human, except Jesus, who has ever lived has sinned (Romans 5:12).

Sin is the transgression of God’s holy law (1 John 3:4) and the foundation of the devil’s government (v. 8). Simply put, sin is deadly: “For the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). This doesn’t just mean the death at the end of a person’s life on Earth; the penalty of sin is “everlasting destruction” (2 Thessalonians 1:9), the opposite of God’s everlasting salvation. (See also Matthew 7:23.) In other words, sin leads to a death that is permanent. We need the gospel because it is the cure for this epidemic of sin.

3. Why did Jesus die?

Hebrews 9:22. Without shedding of blood there is no _____.

1 Corinthians 15:3. Christ _____ for our sins.

ANSWER: “The life of the flesh is in the blood” (Leviticus 17:11). Sin requires the taking of life; someone has to die. Jesus “committed no sin” (1 Peter 2:22) and “knew no sin” (2 Corinthians 5:21), “and in Him there is no sin” (1 John 3:5). Jesus didn’t deserve to die, but He took our penalty of sin. He wanted it to be Him instead of you. He “bore our sins in His own body on the tree” (1 Peter 2:24), becoming our Substitute and sacrificing Himself in our place (Isaiah 53:4–7; John 1:29). “Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust” (1 Peter 3:18). He shed His blood so that our debt of sin would be forgiven.

4. Why did God make such a fantastic sacrifice for us?

John 3:16. God so _____ the world that He gave His only begotten Son.

ANSWER: The strongest earthly tie is the love of parents for their child. When God the Father sent God the Son, Jesus, to suffer and die in our place, He demonstrated how fervently He loves each of us (Romans 5:8). The everlasting gospel is God’s love for the human race in action.



5. What must I do to benefit from Jesus' sacrificial death?

Acts 16:31. _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.

John 1:12. As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who _____ in His name.



ANSWER: Jesus' offer of salvation is a free gift (Romans 6:23). You cannot earn it, but neither is it forced upon you. The love of God has given you free will. You may either receive God's gift, as the one thief did, or not, as the other thief did. You may believe it or not; the choice is yours.

6. What happens to me when I choose to believe in the name of Jesus?

1 John 1:9. If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Acts 3:19. _____ therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.

ANSWER: The belief in Christ that leads to salvation isn't just acknowledging that He exists.

James 2:19 says, "Even the demons believe—and tremble!" When you believe that Christ sacrificed Himself for you, it actively changes you. Accepting Christ's gift of salvation leads you to understand the magnitude of what your sins caused. You confess your sins, admitting and taking responsibility for your guilt.

But that is only one step. Confession leads to repentance, a turning away from sin. You begin to hate sin and to lead a different life apart from sin. "Whoever confesses *and* forsakes them [their sins] will have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13, emphasis added). The gospel encompasses not



only the forgiveness of sins but also the overcoming of them. “For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again” (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15).

7. What is this wonderful conversion experience called?

John 3:7. You must be _____.

ANSWER: The experience of conversion is a new beginning. It’s being forgiven of all the sins you’ve committed and being changed into someone who will ultimately no longer commit sin (1 John 3:9). It is dying to your former life and being reborn anew (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:22–24).

8. Can I achieve this changed life on my own?

John 14:17. The _____ of _____ ... dwells with you and will be in you.

Philippians 2:13. It is _____ who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.



2 Corinthians 3:18. *We all ... beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the _____ of the _____.*

ANSWER: No! As a born-again Christian, you are no longer on your own. Jesus now lives in you through the Holy Spirit, who brings conviction of sin (John 16:8) and the power to overcome temptation in a way that wasn't possible before

(Romans 8:4, 13; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:5). The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead, is the agent of change in your life. He transforms you into the image of Christ's sinless character. Through Him, you will not only want to do God's will—you will also be able to do it! God's will is that you obey His law and for you to live eternally: "I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8). (See also 2 Peter 3:9.)

9. Can the gospel really save me from *all* my sins?

Titus 1:2. *God, who cannot lie, _____ before time began.*

ANSWER: Maybe you've committed acts that you think no one could ever forgive. Maybe you think God would not love a sinner so wicked as you. You may be tempted to feel that the gospel could not possibly apply to you. If so, then claim this promise: It is impossible for God to lie. When Jesus said that He "[came] to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10), He meant it. In fact, God came *because* He is the only One capable of peering into a person's heart and knowing his most shameful secrets (1 Samuel 16:7). He came for people like you.

10. Can I be confident that my new-birth experience will be successful and lasting?

Philippians 1:6. *He who has begun a good work in you will _____ it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

ANSWER: Without a doubt! With Christ dwelling in you, you can know that He will finish what He started. Christ went to the cross and “was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,” so you can be sure that Christ is able to rescue you from the death penalty to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4), a life recreated in Him—a life without sin. You are a work in progress now, but if you continue to allow Christ to “work in you,” your salvation is guaranteed to be fulfilled on the day of His return.

11. Then why do some people fail in their Christian experience?

Isaiah 53:6. *We have turned, every one, to his _____*

ANSWER: It’s not because of God; it’s because of us. When you walk in your “own way” instead of God’s way, you are hindering the Holy Spirit from working in you. Since the Holy Spirit supplies both the power to convict of and to overcome sin, you are fighting a failing battle—Jesus said, “For without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). (See “Once Saved, Always Saved?” at the end of this lesson.)

12. If I sin after I’ve been born again, am I lost?

Proverbs 24:16. *For a righteous man may fall seven times and _____ again.*

James 5:19, 20. *If anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone _____ him back, let him know that he who _____ a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death.*

Hebrews 10:26. *If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there _____ remains a sacrifice for sins.*

ANSWER: You’ve heard the saying, “Old habits die hard.” There may be times in your Christian walk when you fail to cling to God’s guiding hand and stumble back into your old sins. In those times, the devil will assail you with thoughts of discouragement—but remember that the



only path to salvation is *with* Christ, not apart from Him. Eternal life can still be yours if you don't give up.

It is important to understand that Hebrews 10:26 is not referring to a single instance. In the original Greek, the verse indicates a continuing in *willful* sin, a habitual and deliberate rejection of the Holy Spirit. When a person repeatedly refuses the outstretched hand of the everlasting gospel, he is choosing over and over not to accept Christ's sacrifice for his sins. Over time, it will be made evident that nothing—

not even the love of God—could change his mind. He will have decided, of his own free will, to pay the penalty for his own sins. This is how a person loses out on salvation.

On the other hand, a person who perseveres in choosing Christ will find a distaste for sin and, conversely, a love for obeying God's law, and he will grow. He may stumble sometimes, but his character growth will not stagnate. He will find himself able to achieve increasingly new victories over sins; the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit will be manifested in his life.



13. What other wonderful promises come with receiving the gift of the everlasting gospel?

Philippians 4:13. *I can do _____ through Christ who strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:19. *God shall _____ all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

John 15:11. *Your _____ may be full.*

John 10:10. *They may have life, and ... have it more _____.*

Hebrews 13:5, 6. “I will never _____ you nor _____ you.” ... “The LORD is my helper; I will _____. What can man do to me?”

John 14:27. My _____ I give to you.

ANSWER: The gospel exchanges your penalty of death for Christ’s eternal life, but what kind of gift would that be if your eternal life were one of misery and suffering? God wants to ensure the best life for you (Deuteronomy 6:24; Jeremiah 29:11). Here are eight of His precious promises as to the kind of life you receive when you accept the everlasting gospel:

- We can accomplish anything through Jesus.
- All our needs will be supplied.
- Nothing will be impossible for us.
- Our joy will be full.
- We will have a more abundant life.
- God will never leave nor forsake us.
- We don’t need to fear what people may do to us.
- The Lord will give us His perfect peace.

14. Will you decide now to accept Jesus’ plan to save you?

Answer: _____





Lesson 2 Supplemental Material

Once Saved, Always Saved?

Can a person be lost once he has accepted the everlasting gospel? Only in God's Word can we find the correct answer, and the Word speaks clearly:

When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die. ... When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies (Ezekiel 18:24, 26).

The Bible makes it clear that “a righteous man,” someone who has accepted the gospel and is born again (1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:29), may ultimately be lost if he returns to his former sinful life.

Believing in the name of Christ is more than a one-time decision. Belief is continual; a person must continue to believe in order for that belief to hold any value. Living with someone is a continuous process; so also it is when Christ dwells in you.

The apostle Paul likened the life of a born-again Christian to a race, a duration of time, not a moment. While a runner may start out a race

strong, it is possible that he might not finish: “I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified” (1 Corinthians 9:27). A Christian who forsakes the gospel message and turns back to a life of sin disqualifies himself from receiving “the prize” of eternal life (v. 24). If you’re going to a run a race, make sure you “run in such a way that you may obtain it [the prize].” As Christ said, “He who endures to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 24:13).

Paul said, “I die *daily*” (1 Corinthians 15:31, emphasis added). He chose on a daily basis to turn away from his sinful desires and follow the sinless will of God. Jesus said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross *daily*, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23, emphasis added).

It all comes down to free will. Once a person decides to let Jesus save him, he does not suddenly lose his ability to choose. He can change his mind and decide not to be saved. The God of love never forces a person’s will. The choice is always yours to make. “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). (See Proverbs 21:16; Matthew 13:20, 21; Romans 11:22; 2 Peter 2:20, 21; 2 John 8.)



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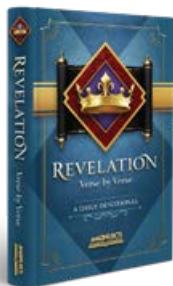
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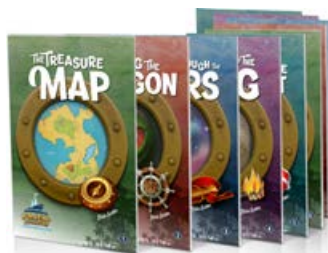
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Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His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

And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 14:6–12

