

## THE ETERNAL GOSPEL

In one of the visions given to John in his Revelation, he says that he saw *“another angel flying in mid Heaven, having **eternal good tidings** to proclaim unto them that dwell on the earth, and unto every nation and tribe and tongue and people” (Revelation 14:6)*. This word “eternal” is an interesting one because it is used, not so much as of “duration (of time)” but of quality, and has in view the immeasurableness of time. It is something that will never, no not ever end. It would seem then, that it is not altogether accurate to speak of the present time in which we live as “the Gospel era” or “Gospel time” as though there will be something else to follow. Many believe that something else will follow. However, this little word indicates such is not to be. Let us note how the word is elsewhere applied.

For example, the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews speaks of the New Testament, and the sacrifice that ratified it as *“the blood of an **eternal covenant**” (Hebrews 13:20)*. The “eternal Gospel” it seems was preached to inform us of an “eternal covenant” in the blood of Christ. Interestingly, Paul tells us this was *“according to the **eternal purpose** which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:11)*. If it was God’s **eternal** purpose to have an **eternal** covenant preached to mankind by means of the **eternal** Gospel, we must conclude that God always knew the necessity of Christ having to come and die for our sins. Since “eternal” also has reference to that which has no beginning nor end, it is no wonder why John wrote of *“the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8, KJV)*.

Let us consider this “eternal Gospel” (which Paul called *“the Gospel of the grace of God”* {Acts 20:24}), from another point of view...it in its past, present,

and future tense. For this we turn to Titus 2:11-13. Verse 11 shows us the Gospel in its **past tense**. God’s grace had *appeared*. It appeared in the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross (Hebrews 2:9). His death, burial, and resurrection is the Gospel according to Paul (I Corinthians 15:1-4). It is an historic fact, not some future promise.

We can see the Gospel in its **present tense**. Verse 12 of Titus two tells us that all living today must be instructed to deny certain things and to live in a certain way.

Finally, we can see the Gospel in its **future tense**. Verse 13 tells us that we are to look for something yet to come, and do so with great anticipation. What is that? The coming of our Lord!

The blessed Eternal Gospel is for all! It takes care of **past** sins: *“And for this cause he is the mediator of a new covenant, that a death having taken place **for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant**, they that have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance” (Hebrews 9:15)*. It takes care of **present** sins: *“And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **unto the remission of your sins**; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38)*. And, it takes care of **future** sins: *“Wherefore also he is able to save to the uttermost them that draw near unto God through him, **seeing he ever liveth** to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25)*. In this way, the Gospel is like Jesus Himself: *“the same yesterday and to-day, yea and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8)*. This is why we must do as Paul wrote and *“let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27)*.

**Sermon Notes:**  
**“Jesus’ First Sermon”**  
**Text: Matthew 4.12-17**

We have an outline of his basic message in three texts.  
Here are the main points of his early preaching:

- Repentance—
- Belief in the Gospel—
- Gospel of God—
- Gospel of the kingdom—
- Kingdom of Heaven—
- Kingdom of God—
- Fulfillment of prophecy—
- Baptism—
- Note also his compassion—
- And his commission-
- Similarities with John’s preaching—

**Meeting Times:**

**Sunday:**

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.  
Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Evening: 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday:**

Bible Study: 7:30 p.m.

**Preachers:**

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# **RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST**



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**January 10, 2010**

**Weekly Budget: \$1360.00**

**Wednesday’s Wisdom:**

*“Who is ‘the anti-Christ’? There is no single anti-Christ, but many. That is anyone who is ‘against’ Christ. Beware!” Zach Haley*

There have been some illnesses. We hope that all is well with all of us here.

James and Suzie have taken Brandi back over to school. They should be back with us tonight.

Please stay for our **fellowship meal** this noon after morning worship. Men, please stay or return for our **business meeting** after our noon meal, about 12.30pm or so.

**Question/Answer night** is coming this month, January 31. Robin has two questions already. Please submit more into the box.

**Sermon Preview:**

- The New Testament records about 16 sermons from our Lord.
- There are also several “Question/Answer” sessions recorded that would make great sermons...but they are not recorded as such.
- His first is basically summed up in three texts, and His first sermon is very similar to the teaching of John the Baptizer.