

Passage: Revelation 14:1-20

Title: Grace Still Abounds

Summary: Even in the Tribulation Period, God still offers grace to a lost and dying world; so much so that it is shouted from heaven by an angel to every person on earth... the EVERLASTING GOSPEL. We will also study the great witness of the 144,000 that are sealed and kept of God, and how we too can have a great witness for God right now in our lives as well.

Revelation 14:1–20 (NKJV) ¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. ³ They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. ⁴ These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God. ⁶ 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." ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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." ¹² Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. ¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." ¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." ¹⁶ So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. ¹⁷ Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." ¹⁹ So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. ²⁰ And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Recap Outline

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.
- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

Recap / Seals & Trumpets

7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

Grace

Yet even in the midst of all the “tribulation” we read today God still offering Grace through the Everlasting Gospel to any and all who come to receive it. We see in our passage a mighty witness of the 144,000 who show that if it (faithfulness and purity) can be done in the midst of the Tribulation, then it can be done today as well for all of us.

Outline: Grace Still Abounds (Revelation 14:1-20)

- The Witness of the 144,000 (14:1-5)
- The Everlasting Gospel (14:6-13)
- The Harvest of God (14:14-16)
- The Wrath of God (14:17-20)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The Witness of the 144,000 (14:1-5)

First Met Chapter 7 / All 144K Made It / Made it without Giving Up

We first met these 144,000 in chapter 7—twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Here in chapter 14, we find all 144,000 standing with the Lord on Mount Zion. In other words, they made it through the Tribulation without collapsing, without caving in, without giving up. May I note that they are no more super-Christians than we are, they are those who chose to stand, and God gave them the power to do so, just as He does us.

Crucial for Us How they Did It

How? I believe the answer is crucial for us because Jesus said in the world we all will have tribulation (John 16:33):

- When the job we count on doesn't open up,
- When the career path seems to be mud road,
- when the marriage we long for doesn't pan out,
- when the kids we wait for don't turn around,
- when the money we hope for doesn't come in
- when you are tired of waiting for that special someone in your life,
- when you feel you aren't growing spiritually

We will be tempted to think that, because the Lord didn't seem to do what He said He would do, we're justified in downing a couple cold ones at the tavern, logging on to a pornographic website, or dating an unbeliever.

(John 16:33 NKJV) "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Its in Time of Tribulation / Get Mind off Problem / Ok – I'm Forgiven

It's in the time of tribulation that the pressure is greatest to bow before the idol and say, "It's okay if I get my mind off my problems for a while because I'm in Christ. I'm forgiven."

All 144K Made It / None Compromised

May I point out before we begin this study, the Lord started with 144,000 and He finished with 144,000, not 139,999, not a one dropped, not a one faded away, not one not got sucked into compromise, but all 144,000 made it, and so too can we.

Youth Wondering Why Stay Pure

For you youth, maybe you are wondering why you should stay pure, go the hard way (so it seems), why you should be the only one, because everyone else isn't.

Adults Too – Dark days / Temptations Intense / Easy to Give In

So can we. We're living in dark days. The temptations are intense. It would be so easy to let down and give in. Anyways, I'm forgiven.

Not Sex Bad – Designed by God / Main Point – No Mate – No Defile / Picture when not get Want
Verse 4 - These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins – It is not that the Lord is saying sex is bad, for He designed and created it for man's pleasure. The main point was that God did not bring them a mate, and they refused to defile themselves morally. Thus the picture for us when God doesn't bring the things along in our lives that we want or expect, that we won't hit the tavern, light-up the joint, engage in sexual immorality, or look at the pornography, and any of those types of things, but that we won't defile ourselves morally.

6 Reasons Purity Pays

6 reasons why purity pays, 6 reasons why refusal to compromise morally pays (Courson)

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #1 - The Lord will be on Your Mind

(Revelation 14:1 NKJV) Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

Chose to Walk Pure / Lord continually on Mind / Contrast to Mark of Beast – Man – 666 / 1 Short
Verse 1 - The Fathers name written on their foreheads - Choose to walk in purity, chose not to cave in, chose not to do what everyone else is doing, and the Lord will be on your mind constantly. What a contrast to where we finished last week, the number of man is 666. The ways of man were in their foreheads, on their mind, and as we have said, the ways of man will always come up one short (for 7 is the number of completion).

(Revelation 13:18 NKJV) Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.

Not Number but Relation / Father written on Forehead – His Children

It is not a number, it is a relationship, for they had the Father's name written on their foreheads, they were His children.

Living Purity – Father on Mind / Mind of Peace / Ish 26

Living in purity, having the Father's name on your forehead, continually having the Father on your mind - the result will be that you will have peace of mind continually. Why? Because God will keep the one whose mind is stayed on Him in perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3).

(Isaiah 26:3 NKJV) You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Paul said Be Ignorant / Be the One Doesn't Get Joke – Know Story Plots

That is why Paul says, "I would have you be wise concerning that which is good but simple concerning that which is evil" (Romans 16:19). The word he uses for "simple" is literally "stupid." In other words, "When everyone else is laughing at the off-color joke, you be the one who doesn't get it." Good for you who don't know the stories or characters of the OC, or Will and Grace, good for you, be ignorant in those things. However, I am ever so amazed that Christians can watch those shows, and think that they don't affect them. Some families wonder why there is such a lack of peace in their homes:

(Romans 16:19 NKJV) For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

(Romans 16:20 NKJV) And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Yes God Forgives – But you won't Forget / Nails Leave Mark / Glue Sticks

Yes you can watch those shows. Yes, you can log on to the Internet. You can tune into HBO. You can go to the tavern and then say, "Father, forgive me. I did that in a moment of depression or boredom." And you'll be forgiven right then. Your sin will be forgotten by the Father—but not by you because, although the nails will be gone, the holes will remain. You can pull the nails out of a piece of wood, but the holes will remain forever. I remember the house I grew up in there in Pennsylvania, and I remember my brother at Halloween glued these crafts that he made to the house. Mom and dad were not happy, so they went to pull them off the house, and the pictures came off, but the glue wouldn't. I remember my granddaddy out there with his pocket knife trying to scrap it off the glue, but this glue just wouldn't come off. 25 years later when I go to that house, I still can see the glue. Some things can be removed, but some things will stick with us forever. God will forgive, but some things will stick with us forever.

Images Stick / Comparison begins – Unsatisfied Begins

Here is what happens, those images stick to us, we see them on television, a movie, a website, a magazine subscription, whatever it may be, and then over time a person finds themselves starting to compare their spouse to those images, which all have their imperfection but have been hidden by the smoke and mirrors of camera, or genetically altered, and the person then becomes unsatisfied because their spouse doesn't live up to the images they see in those places.

Back in Garden

Back in the garden, Adam and Eve together, no comparisons, no pasts, no guilt and shame. They were free to just enjoy one another, fully, completely. A picture of how God intended it to be for us.
(Genesis 2:25 NKJV) And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

David Knew / Set no Wicked Thing before my Eyes / Tape Verse on Television

That is why David, a man who knew something about looking where he shouldn't have, and doing something he shouldn't have, says in Psalm 101:3, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." Tape this verse to your TV and computer:

*(Psalms 101:3 NKJV) I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me.
(Psalms 101:4 NKJV) A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness.*

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind. These virgins, those who refuse to defile themselves, have peace of mind, rather than problems in their mind. Purity Pays.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #2 – Authority will be in Your Voice

(Revelation 14:2 NKJV) And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

Voice Like thunder / Voice of Pure has Authority / Authority & Integrity Linked Together

The voices of the 144,000 were like thunder—earth-shaking and impacting. Truly, the voice of a grandparent, a parent, or a high-schooler living in purity is like thunder because authority and integrity are linked together inextricably. You cannot separate the two.

If Thinks Kids Don't Know – Underestimate Discernment of Human spirit

If you think, My kids will never know; my grandchildren will never hear; the guys at work don't have a clue what I do late at night, you underestimate the discerning ability of the human spirit. Even if people don't know your story, they can sense in your voice, see in your face, and discern in their hearts whether or not you are a person of integrity.

I Worked with Kids / They Know / Parent – No Respect from Kid? Maybe no Authority in Voice

I worked in the Youth Ministry for many years before this, and I call you this parent, your kids know, they know what you are doing, they tell me. Parents, if your children are not listening to you, respecting you, maybe it is because there is no authority in your voice.

Another with Voice of Thunder / Become Like Him / No Guilt or Shame / Compromise Silences

We have read before a voice as thunder, it was the voice of our Lord. When we are living a life of purity, we will take on the characteristics of our Lord, we will become just like Him, in the way we think, in the way we walk, and in the way we talk. You will speak in and with His authority because there will be no guilt or shame because of our compromise. These 144,000 were people of integrity, that is why the voices of the 144,000 are likened to thunder. Compromise silences our witness, but a person living in purity, their voice is like thunder, it is heard, it has power.

(Revelation 1:15 NKJV) His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

Purity Pays / Mind - Authority

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority. Purity Pays.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #3 – A Song will be on Your Lips

(Revelation 14:3 NKJV) They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

Song of Happiness / God is Happy / People Left to Follow – Because something Joyful

A new song in Scripture always implies a song of rejoicing or happiness. It may come as a shock to you if you're new in the things of the Lord that God is a happy God. It's true. The reason people left everything to follow Jesus, the reason they traveled great distances to see Him and even went days without food to listen to Him was because there was something about Him so joyful, so happy, so abundant.

Concerning Jesus – Heb 1:9 / Happiest Man is One who Hates Sin / Happiness proportion to Holy

Concerning Jesus, Hebrews 1:9 declares, "Because thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity thou art anointed with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." In other words, "The happiest Man in history was the One who hated sin." In that, I understand happiness in life is directly proportional to holiness in life.

(Hebrews 1:8 NKJV) But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.

(Hebrews 1:9 NKJV) You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

Rev 4 / Ultimate Worship Session

In Revelation 4, the throne room of heaven erupts with the ultimate worship session, and the heart of that worship session, is Holy, Holy, Holy:

(Revelation 4:8 NKJV) The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

(Revelation 4:9 NKJV) Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

(Revelation 4:10 NKJV) the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Happy Are Those / Happiness & Holiness Travel Together

Happy is the people whose God is the Lord (Psalm 144:15). The holier we choose to be, the happier we will be because happiness and holiness travel together.

(Psalms 144:15 NKJV) Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!

Limitless Happiness / Youth it Seems Painful / Wish Messed Around More / Thoughts & Images

Limitless holiness, limited happiness. You youth, I know it seems painful right now to maintain your purity, especially how you are continually being bombarded with the things of the world. Youth let me tell you this, I have yet to meet any Christian who is married say, I wish I would have messed around more before I got married, never have I heard this. Rather what I hear is people saying, sometimes, out of nowhere comes thoughts, or images, or faces of the past, things I engaged in (or even currently compromise in), come now and take away from all that my physical relationship with my spouse could be.

The New Song

These virgins, those who refused to defile themselves, to compromise; they sing a new song, a song that no one else knows, but the other virgins. For those who won't go the hard way, the long way, for those that said it really isn't going to matter, they don't know the words to this song, they can only listen to its beauty, but never know the lyrics. As for those that didn't, they can only know that they missed something, but they will never know how much. You can be forgiven, you can still be blessed in your marriage, but something will be missing, it could have been more than what it is. For those of you who say well we are getting married anyways, or we are married in God eyes, this principle still holds true, for you didn't go the "God Way", you went Your Way", and something will be missing.

God Designed Sex / Like a Fireplace / Warm and Romantic – Burn the House

God designed sex, it is His idea, He designed it to be romantic, interesting, exciting, and warm. It is like a fire in a fireplace. When you have that fireplace burning in your front room, and it warms you and brings you joy. But take that same beautiful fire out of the fireplace, place it in the middle of your living room (I want to move it closer to me), and that same fire now becomes a dread, it burns your whole house. That is the whole deal with sex; in the fireplace it is warm, romantic, and interesting, grand and glorious, but take it outside where it was designed to be and you will be burned, it will affect your home.

Nobody Escapes / Pleasure for a Season / Nails Leave Marks

Nobody escapes it's wrap. The Bible says there is pleasure in sin for a season, but after that comes destruction. I bought the lie, hook, line, and sinker, and what I thought was so great, now robs me. I'm forgiven, but the nails have left a hole. My past has left its mark. Some people tell me they have been saved all their life and that they don't feel as on-fire for Jesus who had these radical conversions after drinking in all the world had to offer, trust me, no you don't – no you don't. The nails leave marks
(Hebrews 11:24 NKJV) By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, (Hebrews 11:25 NKJV) choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, (Hebrews 11:26 NKJV) esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

(Proverbs 6:32 NKJV) Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.

How Vital not to Set Anything Wicked / Youth give the Gift / Don't Buy the Lie

How vital it is for me to not set any wicked thing before me today. I owe that to my spouse. You youth, give the gift to your spouse, be a gift of a lifetime for them. Don't buy the lie.

Outside Marriage / Speaking in Authority

You who say well we are getting married anyways, I take you back to that speaking in authority. It will sting when you child said well you and dad didn't wait. Be able to say we waited, and you will be able to sing it with joy as you share it with your child.

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority, and you will have a song on your lips. Purity Pays precious people.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #4 - The Lamb will be in Your Sight

(Revelation 14:4 NKJV) These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Wherever Lamb Goes

Wherever the Lamb goes, the 144,000 follow. The Lamb is always in their sight.

The Sun & the Thumb

Don't let anything block out your vision of the Lord. The sun is so big its interior could hold 1,300,000 earths. Yet I can block the entire sun out of my sight with only my thumb.

God Never leaves us – Thumb of Sin can Block Him Out

The same is true concerning God. He'll never leave or forsake us, but the "thumb" of our sin blocks Him from our sight. The 144,000 follow the Lamb easily because their purity allows them to see Him clearly.

Where Should I Go

We have been talking a lot lately about the leading of the Lord; well keeping oneself pure will greatly add you in where you are to go. For where He goes is where you want to go. Life just flows when you are walking in purity.

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority, you will have a song on your lips, and you will have clear direction in your life. Purity Pays precious people.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #5 – You will be Fruit unto Your God

(Revelation 14:4 NKJV) These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

Best of the Best

First fruits means the best of the best.

Maybe You don't Care about Self – But Care about what the Lord Thinks / 144K Delightful

You might not care about being happy, about being blessed, about having direction for your life personally, or speaking with authority presently. But perhaps you really do care about what God thinks of you eternally. And of the 144,000 who walk in purity, He says, "They've made a tough choice, they chose to remain pure in a culture of filth, and I regard them as the finest fruit." God says delightful.

Me – I love Fresh Fruit / God enjoys partaking in Good Fruit – He Savors It

Ohh, in the mornings how I love that glass of fresh chilled orange juice, it is delightful for me. How I love those fresh strawberries, so sweet, as they melt in my mouth. I love a fresh crisp apple. It blesses me, I enjoy partaking in them, and that is the how the Lord sees a man or woman who will not defile themselves morally, who will not compromise, who offer themselves up to Him as a first fruit, nothing but the best for you. He enjoys us, He savors us. Compare that to our last study, God doesn't want us to bring a fruit basket and say look what I have done, God wants us to be a fruit basket, and say here is what I am.

Foundational Verse Rev 4:11 / For His Good Pleasure

We saw the foundational verse for all of man back in revelation 4:11, for we were created for His good pleasure, and Our Lord takes pleasure when we present ourselves to Him as a first fruit, the best of the best.

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Give First Fruit – Watch the Crops He Sends Your Way / Never Regret Purity

Give Him your first fruits, and watch the crops that God sends down your way. You will never regret purity.

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority, you will have a song on your lips, you will have clear direction in your life, and you will be a sweet offering to your God. Purity Pays precious people.

Six Reasons Purity Pays: #6 – A Sweetness will be in Your Mouth

(Revelation 14:5 NKJV) And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

No Deceit / No Poison

No deceit means no poison, no bad breath, they just had a sweetness in their mouth, of all the things that came out of it.

Eph 5 / Engine of train – the Cars that Follow

In Ephesians 5:3, 4, Paul makes an interesting point when he says, "Let not fornication, uncleanness, or covetousness be named among you; neither filthiness, foolish talking, nor coarse jesting." The first list is like the engine of a train—the second like the cars that follow.

(Ephesians 5:3 NKJV) But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

(Ephesians 5:4 NKJV) neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Bible Links Speech with the Heart / If it comes out Mouth – Then means You taking it In Somehow

The Bible always links purity with speech because out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34). Thus, when a person is always telling coarse jokes, or involved with foolish jesting, it means that he or she is partaking of immorality in some way. The words are merely the cars that follow the engine. That is why the mouths of the 144,000 were filled with sweetness.

(Matthew 12:34 NKJV) "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority, you will have a song on your lips, you will have clear direction in your life, you will be a sweet offering to your God, and there will be a sweetness in your speech. Purity Pays precious people.

Conclusion

Youth Hold On / Uncomfortable – Wishful Message

You youth hold on, you singles hold on, and it will be worth the wait. You won't have to sit like some today who remember back, and wish, and know what has been lost.

Walk in Purity – People Mock – then Envy

Walk in the purity, and at the end the people who mock you, will envy you. Be radical, don't give in, go against the flow, you will be blessed, I guarantee.

If you Have Fallen / Faultless – Before the throne

And even if you have failed—as we all have—if you are one of His, God still finds you faultless.

Where? Before the throne (verse 5). Why?

(Revelation 14:5 NKJV) And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Because Blood of Jesus – 1 John 1:7 / I can Attest to This Passage

Because the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all our failings (1 John 1:7). So it is that God says, "Not only are you faultless before the throne, but I will keep you from falling on earth" (see Jude 24). You're faultless positionally, but I can keep you from falling practically if you'll allow Me." I can attest that God is able; I love my wife, so much so that I wanted to marry her, and I can say God kept us from falling, to not even as so much touch. He can give you the power to do so.

(1 John 1:7 NKJV) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

(Jude 1:24 NKJV) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Yes Covered – But Give no More Away

If you have blown it, the blood covers you, but lets not continue to fall anymore, don't give any more away. I pray that you will desire the things we just studied and that will be what you seek.

Church Chose to Be Holy / Purpose Holiness & Purity Before Leave Here

Church, that you would chose to be Holy today. Say no, that you would leave here today, and purpose in your heart that you will leave here today and live in holiness. That you would say, today is a fresh start, a new day, and I chose to walk away from those things, and I desire to walk and live in Holiness – Lord help me to do it.

Worship the Lord in Beauty of Holiness

Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness. Your worship will be so sweet when you are walking in holiness, and purity, that in itself is enough to turn it off, to turn away.

(1 Chronicles 16:29 NKJV) Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

Chose Holiness – You'll never Regret it

Choose holiness, gang. You'll never regret it. Choose holiness, for if you do, you will be happy presently and blessed eternally.

Purity Pays

Christian, purity pays; for you will have the Lord on your mind, and peace in your mind, and you will speak in and with His authority, you will have a song on your lips, you will have clear direction in your life, you will be a sweet offering to your God, and there will be a sweetness in your speech. Purity Pays precious people.

The Everlasting Gospel (14:6-13)

(Revelation 14:6 NKJV) 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 14:7 NKJV) 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."

7 Year Tribulation Foreshadow of Hell / Hell will look back to Tribulation / Both Rejecting - Wrath

The 7 year Tribulation period is just a foreshadow of what hell will be like. People sentenced to hell, will look back at the Tribulation Period as the good ole days. The Tribulation and Hell, are both the wrath of God, on a Christ rejecting world, more specifically, it is God's wrath upon sinful man who refused to repent of his sins:

(Revelation 6:15 NKJV) And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Who can Stand / Those that Overcome

Who will be able to stand? Those that overcome. How does a man overcome, through the Blood of the Lamb.

(1 John 5:4 NKJV) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith.

(1 John 5:5 NKJV) Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Only 2 Choices / Wrath of Lamb – Blood of Lamb / God Wishes None Should Perish

Man has only two choices for his life, either the Wrath of the Lamb, or the Blood of the Lamb. God, wishing that none should perish, but that all should seek repentance (2 Peter 3:9), will continually offer His way of salvation, the forgiveness of sin, that a man may be acceptable before Him, and come into His presence (which is through the Blood of the Lamb). He will continually offer this to all men everywhere during the Tribulation Period, and He will do it through an angel flying through in the midst of heaven, proclaiming the everlasting gospel.

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

(2 Peter 3:10 NKJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Some think Satellite – Others Angel / Who Said? – but Know What Said

Now some think this angel is a satellite, others think it is an actual angel. I myself go with the later, just to because that is what it says, so that is probably what it means, no need to spiritualize it. Although I may not know who are what is saying it, but I do know what will be said, because God has given to us in this Word, and demonstrated it before us on the cross, the "Everlasting Gospel". They will preach the everlasting gospel, and today you will hear the everlasting gospel, and you will be given the opportunity to respond to it.

Holy Ground

Today we stand on Holy Ground, please no talking, or moving about. Don't distract your neighbor, but focus and listen to the Everlasting Gospel.

Listen Very Closely / 39 Million Minutes

Listen very closely, for what I will tell you in the next 20 minutes will not only effect how you will live the

rest of your life here on earth, but also where you will spend eternity. The average person lives 75 years, that about 39 million minutes (according to my calculations). What you will hear in the next 20 minutes, will be the most important 20 minutes of those 39 million. What you decide at the end of these 20 minutes will not only effect what is remaining of your 39 million minutes, but how and where you will spend eternity, which is time without end, that makes 39 million minutes a blink of an eye in comparison to eternity.

[The Everlasting Gospel](#)

Not Distant / Bible – God’s Love Letter / Thoughts greater than Grains Sand

Let me share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with you. Gospel means “good news”, and it truly is for we have seen that God is not a distant far away impersonal God, but a God who cares deeply for us. Do you know in the Bible, which is His love letter to us that God thinks of us so much that if we were to count the number of His thoughts towards us, they would outnumber the grains of sand upon all the beaches in the world combined? Yes that is Psalm 139, verses 17-18.

(Psalms 139:17 NKJV) How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

(Psalms 139:18 NKJV) If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

Intimately Involved / Number of Hairs

He is so intimately involved in every detail of our life that He says that He knows the number of hairs on our heads (Luke 12:7),

(Luke 12:7 NKJV) "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Stores our Tears / Never Shed Alone

The Bible says that He stores our tears in a bottle (Psalm 56:8). You are so precious to Him that not one of your tears has ever fallen without Him catching that tear. You have never cried alone, never, for His thoughts for you would outnumber the grains of sand on all the beaches:

(Psalms 56:8 NKJV) You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

Jeremiah 29 / A Wonderful Plan

He also says to us in His love letter, the Bible, *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope (that’s Jeremiah 29:11)*. God has a wonderful plan for your life.

[The Problem:](#)

But there is a Problem / God Holy & Pure – Our Sin makes us Impure / Separated from Him

Even with all these wonderful things we have just said, there is problem. The problem is that God is so Holy and Pure, that nothing impure can come into His presence, and our sin makes us impure, therefore we are separated from Him.

The Bible says in Isaiah 59:1-2:

(Isaiah 59:1 NKJV) Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

(Isaiah 59:2 NKJV) But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

The Bible says in Romans 3:23:

(Romans 3:23 NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The Bible says in Hanakkuk 1:13:

(Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness.

Separated until Problem Corrected / Separation Causes a Void / Mistakenly try to Fill Void

We are separated from having a personal relationship with Him, until the problem (our sin) is taken care of. Maybe you feel something is missing in your life, maybe there is void in your life. Separation from God causes the void man feels in his heart, that there is something missing, that there is more to life than what they have. Man was created to fellowship with God; God designed us to want fellowship with our Creator (Revelation 4:11). To not fellowship with God will always cause us to fill something is missing.

Mistakenly, many people today try to fill this void with the things of the world (money, sex, power, drugs, alcohol, and material possessions) all the while drifting them further away from their Creator.
(Revelation 4:11 KJV) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

What is Sin / 10 Commandments / Standard of Conduct / Law Country – So too Law Universe

What is Sin you may ask. Do you remember the 10 commandments, also called and known as the Law? You can find them in Exodus chapter 20. To sin is to break God's Law which is the standard of conduct that He has given for our common good. Just as there is a law for this country, so does God have a Law for His Universe, and we are all subject to that Law.

Why God Hates Sin / Not Kill-Joy / Protect and Provide

By the way, do you know why God calls sin, sin. Not because He is some cosmic kill-joy, trying to take the fun out of life as He is so often accused of. On the contrary, God hates sin not only because He is Holy, but because He hates how it hurts us, robs us, and destroys us. God hates to see His creation hurt themselves. God calls sin, sin, and tells us to stay away from it for 2 reasons:

- To **Protect** us.
- To **Provide** for us.

Pick any Sin

Pick any sin in the Bible and you can see how He wants to protect us, and how He wants to provide for us. Take drunkardness for example (which God calls sin – 1 Corinthians 6:10); what does He want to protect us from and provide for us? He wants to protect me from crashing my car into a pole, and to provide for me so that when I wake up in the morning I have a clear conscience that I didn't do anything I might regret. Take fornication which is to have sex outside of marriage (which God calls sin – 1 Corinthians 6:9); what does God want to protect us from, He wants to protect us from the pain that comes with diseases, unplanned pregnancies, and the broken heart of failed relationships. On the contrary God wants me to wait until He brings that special person He has picked out for me and we can enjoy one another fully without worry of disease, comparison, consequences, or fear of rejection. But to just love and enjoy each other, best friends forever.

Just Focus 10 Commandments

But let's just focus on the 10 Commandments (which are the basis for all of God's Laws):

- #1. "You shall have no other gods before Me... (Exodus 20:3). That means that nothing comes first before the Lord, whether it is that relationship, a career, children, a recreation, nothing. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image... (Exodus 20:4-6). That means that no house, car, collection shall come first before the Lord. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #3. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... (Exodus 20:7). Even if it just slipped out after the plate dropped in your foot, or the hammer hit your thumb. He is God, a Holy God who deserves and demands reverence. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...(Exodus 20:8-11). But it is my only day to sleep in. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #5. "Honor your father and your mother... (Exodus 20:12). Oh Boy! But I was just a child. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #6. "You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13). Jesus said if you have anger in your heart you have committed murder (Matthew 5:21-22). To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #7. "You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14). Jesus said if you look at a woman in lust you have committed adultery; needless to say if you carried it out (Matthew 5:27-28). To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #8. "You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15). Even the pen or paperclip from work, or that little piece of gum as a child, or the little fudge on our taxes. Purity is Pure. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.
- #9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16). That means to lie, even the little white lie. Purity is Pure. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.

- #10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods; (Exodus 20:17). This last commandment shows that God doesn't just examine our outward actions, but our inward thoughts. Purity is Pure. To do so is to break God's Holy Law.

You have Offended the Holy God / He is Consuming Fire

Well how did you do as we went through them? If you are honest, you will say I have failed in some of them, but if you look deep enough you will see that you have failed somehow in all of them. Guess what, you have broken God's Holy Laws, you have offended the Holy God, you are guilty before Him, and there – "is the problem". The Law shows us our sin (Romans 3:19). Remember now, God's standard is perfection; nothing impure can come into His presence; that sin no matter how small or great has made you imperfect, therefore you can not come into His presence. You see because He is so Holy, so Pure, so Perfect, any impurity that would come into His presence would have to be consumed, for the Bible says that His Holiness is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29). Men have forgotten, or refuse to see that He is a Holy God. He isn't the Big Man Upstairs, He is the Awesome and Holy God.

(Hebrews 12:29 NKJV) For our God is a consuming fire.

No One in Clear / Sin not Categorized / Just as Guilty as the Murder

Not one of us are in the clear, God says, "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). Nor does God categorize sin, as we may do; big sins and little sins. Well I may have told a little lie, but I'm not as bad as that murder over there. The Bible says that if we break just one law once, we are guilty of them all (James 2:10). In God's eyes we are just as guilty before Him as a murder or adulterer.

(James 2:10 NKJV) For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

We Judge on Man's Standard

We like to judge ourselves according to man's standards, which doesn't make us look that bad, as long as we are not some murderer or rapist. We look around at our sin, and says well everybody is doing it. But when we look at ourselves according to God's standards (perfection), we see how far off we are. We have offended the Holy God.

The Penalty

All Guilty / Penalty – Death / Break Man's Law / Not Mere Advice

So we are all guilty, we have all offended God. There is the penalty for our sin, the penalty is death. The Bible says, "*The wages of sin (our problem) is death*" (Romans 6:23). When we break man's laws, we must pay a penalty for our actions. In the same way, God in His justice must pass judgment upon every Law breaker, for if He didn't then He would not be a Righteous and Holy God. Law without consequences would truly not be law, but mere advice. If you stole a car and got caught by the police, what would happen? You would have to pay a penalty, you would have to go to jail. So too there is a penalty for breaking God's Law.

Death is Spiritual Death – Separation from God / Alive yet Dead / Dead Twice

The wages of sin, is death (Romans 6:23). What I never knew, until I read the Bible, is the death God is talking about, is spiritual death and eternal separation from Him, for God is too Holy to look upon sin. You can be alive physically, while at the same time dead spiritually. After this body returns to the ground, then a man can be twice dead, physically dead, and spiritually dead. He who is dead twice will then be separated from God for eternity, cast into outer darkness, the Lake of Fire (Hell) where the soul never dies, and the mind is fully conscious. If there is a heaven, then there is a hell. That is why Jesus said unless a man be born again, He can not enter into the Kingdom of God. You must be spiritually made alive. That is John 3:3, *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

The Provision

Good News – Not left Alone in this Predicament / Always the Lamb / The lamb - the Temple

Good news, God has not left us alone in this predicament. So much so that He offers to trade places with us. When Jesus began His public ministry He was heralded as the *Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29). It has always been the lamb for the forgiveness of sin. Back in the Old Testament times, when a person committed a sin against the Lord (broken one of the 10

Commandments), they were instructed to bring a lamb to the Temple for a sacrifice. You can read about this in the Book of Leviticus chapter 3. The Temple in the Old Testament was the place where God would meet with man. There at the Temple the guilty person would then place his or her hand upon the head of the lamb and make a public profession of his guilt. The act was symbolic of transferring that person's guilt and shame on to the innocent lamb, and the innocent lamb would take his or her place. After the confession, after the transfer of guilt, the High Priest at the Temple would then take a knife across the throat of the innocent lamb, killing it, and then taking the blood of the lamb, and sprinkling it upon the altar there in the temple. However, this sacrifice was only a covering until the next sin, and then the person would have to go through the whole process again. The whole purpose was to show man the severity of sin, for *the wages of sin is death* (Romans 6:23), and God is a Holy God.

(John 1:29 NKJV) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

(Leviticus 3:6 NKJV) 'If his offering as a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD is of the flock, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish.

(Leviticus 3:7 NKJV) 'If he offers a lamb as his offering, then he shall offer it before the LORD.

(Leviticus 3:8 NKJV) 'And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar.

The Perfect Sacrifice – Last Sacrifice

But the perfect sacrifice, would be the last sacrifice. The last sacrifice would be the perfect sacrifice, because the last sacrifice was God Himself – *The Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world* – Jesus Christ.

Today – Man must lay Hand Upon Jesus – Transfer Guilt

Today, Man must lay his hands upon the head of Jesus, confess his guilt and shame, transfer it on to Jesus, the innocent Lamb, the perfect Lamb. Jesus was sinless, therefore He was perfect. He met God's standard of perfection.

Bridge between Man and God

God has reached out to us. He came to this earth 2,000 years ago as a man named Jesus. And Jesus the man who was God, voluntarily died on a brutal Roman cross to bridge the gap between mankind and God to eliminate the separation from Him. When Jesus hung on the cross, He essentially took hold of a Holy God with one hand, and with the other He took hold of us, sinful man. The Bible says:

(John 3:16 NKJV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(John 3:17 NKJV) "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

What Held Him – not Nails – Love / God devised Way / Merciful – Maintaining Justice

What held Jesus to the cross? After all, He possesses the powers of the universe. It wasn't the nails. It was His love for me and you. The Bible tells us, "*God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8). As we saw earlier, the penalty for our sin, is death. Yet God devised a way that would allow Him to be merciful to us while at the same time, maintaining His justice by upholding the righteous standard of His Law.

(Romans 5:8 NKJV) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus took our Death Penalty / 2 Cor 5:21 / Someone had to Die / God took Action

Jesus took our death penalty for sin upon Himself and gave His life as our substitute (for that should have been us on the cross). Listen to what (2 Corinthians 5:21) says, *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* Righteousness simply means – Right Standing. The wages of sin, is death, someone had to die. But God, demonstrating His love for us, not wanting us to be separated from Him, not wanting us to have to pay the wages of sin, left His throne, became man, and said let me take your sin, the wages of your sin - death, so that you may have Right Standing before God. It is the ultimate "Trading Places".

The Only Way / People say Sin not Bad / I'm a Good Person

This is the only way; many people today don't feel that their sin is that bad, but as we saw, if you are guilty of one sin, then you are guilty of them all. Do not underestimate the offense of sin before the Holy God. Many people say, but I am a good person. The Bible says
(Romans 3:10 NKJV) *As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;*
(Romans 3:11 NKJV) *There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.*
(Romans 3:12 NKJV) *They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."*

Don't Judge on Man's Standard

Don't measure yourself, or judge yourself on man's standards. Judge and examine yourself according to God's standard of perfection.

John 14:6 / The Only Way / Sacrifice Perfect – God's Standard is Perfection

Jesus said, in John 14:6, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*" What Jesus did on the cross is the only way for us to have peace with God. The sacrifice has to be perfect, for God's standard is perfection, therefore only God (who is perfect) could be the sacrifice. Any and all others sacrifices would fall short, because they are not perfect.
(John 14:6 NKJV) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

Substitute Excepted / Rose Again – The Power of the Gospel / So too Shall we Rise

We know that God accepted this substitute because Jesus broke the power of death and rose again on the third day. **This is the power of the gospel**, for anybody can die, but only Jesus could rise from the dead. Had the substitute not be acceptable then Jesus would have remained in the grave, but He didn't, He rose again and ascended into heaven. We know that we too shall not go to hell, but go to heaven where Jesus is.

Sin Totally Wiped Away / God Sees us as Perfect

God totally wipes away our sins and forgives us. God now looks at us as perfect, no sin, no impurity. For when we laid our hand upon His head, transferred our guilt and shame upon Him, we traded places with Him. He became sin, and we became perfect (as He is). Forgiveness means "to carry away", and only Jesus can carry our sins away. The Bible says so clean and forgiven are we that God says we are new creations, and the old things have passed away. Listen to these promises of God for all who trade places with Jesus:

(Hebrews 10:17 NKJV) *then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

(Psalms 103:12 NKJV) *As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

God sees Jesus when He Looks at Us Now

When God looks at us now, He see Jesus, for we traded places with Him. All the Father sees is perfection.

Sin Wiped Away – We now Perfect – Come into Presence of Perfect God

With sin wiped away, we are Holy and Pure, and can come before a Holy and Pure God. We can enjoy what we were created for, to fellowship with our Creator.

The Profession

God Loves You – Want Relationship / Will not Force Himself – Free Will

God loves you, He desires to have a personal relationship with you, but only if you want one with Him. God will not force Himself on you, He will respect your free choice.

Want Peace with God / Your Responsibility / Recognize – Repent - Receive

If you want to have peace with God, there is a responsibility on your side. You must do three things, Recognize, Repent, and Receive.

Recognize / No Blame Shift / Have Offended / Lay hands – Confess Guilt / Only Way

First you have to recognize that you are a sinner and you have offended the Holy God. You can't make excuses blaming everyone and everything else for your actions. You must recognize and admit that your sin has offended the Holy God. You must lay your hand upon the head of Jesus, confess your guilt and shame, transfer it on to Jesus, the innocent Lamb, the perfect Lamb. You must recognize that Jesus Christ died on that cross for you personally. That He paid the price for your sin and nothing else could.

Christ has done all the Work / Eph 2:8

You must recognize that Christ (the innocent Lamb) has done all the work on the cross, and there is nothing that you can do in and of yourself to cleanse your sin. Your works won't get you to heaven, for what could you possibly do for God in comparison to what He has done for you on the cross. To think that you could is the ultimate insult to God, it is saying I have something better than your only Begotten Son. In Ephesians 2:8-9 the Bible says, *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Nothing we can do Except Receive

There is nothing we can do, except receive this gift. We can't earn it, we can only receive it freely. That is why it is called grace, which simply means, "getting what we don't deserve". We got heaven, when we deserved hell. Grace, G-R-A-C-E; Gods Riches, at Christ's Expense.

Repent / 1st Words / Change Direction / 110 times / No Repentance – No Salvation

Secondly you must repent of your sin. In Matthew 4:17 the first word out of Jesus' mouth when he started his public ministry: *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent:** for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* The word "repent" means to change your direction. You have to be sorry for your sins, for they put Christ on the cross. 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation.* The Bible tells us, *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord"* (Acts 3:19). God commands people everywhere to repent. The word repent is mentioned some 110 times in the Scriptures. You must be willing to turn away from those things that displease God, and to stop doing them. Repentance, to change direction, it is as if you are walking down the street one way and Jesus is going the other, and He calls you to follow Him, once you hear His call, you must choose whether to follow Him or not. A person can not pray to receive Jesus, and then continue on in habitual sin. Any man who refuses to repent is deceiving themselves. Without repentance, there is no forgiveness of sin (that is Luke chapter 24, verses 46-47). Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life!

(2 Corinthians 7:10 NKJV) For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

(Acts 3:19 NKJV) "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

(Luke 24:46 NKJV) Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

(Luke 24:47 NKJV) "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Not Left Alone to Repent / New Heart

But just as God has not left us alone in the predicament of our sin, neither does He leave us on our own for the power to repent. Listen to this promise in Ezekiel chapter 11:

(Ezekiel 11:19 NKJV) "Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,

(Ezekiel 11:20 NKJV) "that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

Jesus has Victory over Sin To / Gives Power to us for Same Victory

God gives us a new heart. Jesus didn't just have victory over death when He rose again, but He had total victory over the bondages of sin. The powers of sin and death have been crushed by the risen Savior and He promises to give us the power to overcome any and all sins in our life by calling out to Him.

So Much So – Will Come Live in Your Heart / Free-Will / Back to Why Created

God so much is not going to leave you on your own in this matter, that He will come into your heart, and take up residence in you to help lead and guide you (but still allowing you to exercise your free-will). That brings us back to why we were created, so that we may walk and fellowship with our Creator. The Creator of the Universe will dwell in your heart, and He promises us in His Word, that He will never leave us nor forsake us, and the good news of that is, that cannot lie, for God cannot lie (Hebrews 13:5). Listen to 2 Corinthians 6:16:

(2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV) For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

(Revelation 4:11 KJV) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

(Hebrews 13:5 NKJV) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Receive / John 1:12 / Rom 10:9

So you must Recognize, Repent, and *Thirdly* you must Receive Jesus Christ. The Bible says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12). And the Bible says in Romans 10:8-11:

(Romans 10:8 NKJV) But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

(Romans 10:9 NKJV) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

(Romans 10:10 NKJV) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

(Romans 10:11 NKJV) For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Not Intellectual Belief / Heart Belief / Profoundly Simple – Simple Profound

The "belief" spoken of here is not an intellectual belief, but a belief from the heart. If we do all these things then we will have peace with God. The Gospel is profoundly simple, we lay our hand upon the head of Jesus, He takes our guilt and shame, and we get new life, peace with God. Profoundly simple, yet simply profound, that the Holy God would love us so much, that He would be willing to leave His throne, take our sin, die the brutal death of the cross for us, and say "they are worth it".

Everlasting Gospel

This is the Everlasting Gospel

Confession/Agreement of Salvation

First Time Realization of Your Sin – Offense / Trading only Way / Laying Hand / Repent old Life of Sin – Start New / Profess Him – Ask Him into Heart

Maybe today for the first time you have come to the realization that your sin is offensive to the Holy God, and that you are separated from Him because of your sin. You recognize that trading places with Jesus is the only way for forgiveness of your sin, the laying of your hand upon Him to transfer all your guilt and shame to Him. You know and believe these things in your heart, you are willing to turn and repent from the old life of sin, and start a new life walking with Jesus; you are ready to profess Him as your Lord and Savior, and ask Him to come into your heart and take up residence within you.

We will Pray with You / Not For You

We will pray with you, we will pray that prayer of faith as spoken of in Romans 10:9 with you. We cannot pray for you, for this is between you and the Lord. But we will pray with you.

I Imagine Your Mind – How Approach / Not what Say – But Heart Believe

I imagine your mind is thinking how do I approach Him, what do I say, He is God. It is not so much what you say, but what you believe:

(Romans 10:8 NKJV) But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

(Romans 10:9 NKJV) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

(Romans 10:10 NKJV) For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

(Romans 10:11 NKJV) For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Believe in Heart – Profession is Simple Prayer / Repeat Words to God / Bow Heads

It is what you believe in your heart. The profession part, it is a simple prayer. We will help you, we will pray with you, it is a simple prayer. I'll lead you, and you repeat the words to the Lord from your heart. Let's bow our heads and hearts right now before the Lord and pray.

The Prayer of Salvation

You pray, Father I thank you for revealing yourself to me today. I know that I am a sinner, and that my sin separates me from you. I thank you for sending your only Son Jesus to trade places with me, to die in my place, and rise again on the 3rd day. I repent of my sins, and I receive Him now as my Lord and Savior. Come now into my life, take up residence within me, make me a new creation, cleanse me from my sins and present me faultless before your throne. I pray these things in your Name, Amen.

Welcome to Family / Welcome into the Kingdom

If you have just prayed that prayer from your heart, welcome to the family, welcome into His Kingdom.

If you will Stand

Those of you who have just prayed this prayer, if you will stand to your feet we will pray for you. Jesus said:

(Matthew 10:32 NKJV) "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

(Matthew 10:33 NKJV) "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

We Acknowledge Your Profession

You stand and we will acknowledge your profession, and we will stand with you and beside you. We promise to walk with you, in the good times, and the not so good times. You stand.

Prayer for the Saved

Father we thank you for these loved ones, for the commitment they have made to You today. For revealing yourself to them as you have to us – another one for the Kingdom. Now I pray Lord, go before them, teach them daily about you and your wonderful ways, show them the things you have shown us, everyday let them see how Great and Awesome a Father you are to your children, and give them the strength to walk in your ways. Lord, may you put them on our hearts and minds to pray for them, to encourage them, and to help them grow in you. Lord that we would be there for them, and above all else Lord, the greatest gift of all, that we will enjoy your love together. We pray these things in your name – Amen.

[A New Beginning](#)

Now Made Commitment / Welcome / Start and Stay Strong / Greater is He

If you have prayed that prayer, have made that commitment to Christ and asked Him to come into your heart, welcome to the family of God, and let's make sure that you start your walk strong, and continue on strong. You can be sure that the enemy (Satan) is not happy with this decision you made and will want to try to trip you up and make you question yourself. Rest assured, the Bible says in 1 John 4:4, *Greater is He who is in you, than He who is in the world.* I cannot tell you that life is going to be easy, and you will not have trials and temptations (for you will until God takes you home), but what I can guarantee you is that God will walk every step beside you in this life, and give you all you need to live a victorious Christian life.

Acts 2:42

Let me give you 5 steps to being strong in the Lord, and staying strong in the Lord. In Acts 2:42, as the young church grew (much like you are today), we see the pillars for spiritual growth:

(Acts 2:42 NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. Study of the Word (Apostles Doctrine):

The first thing they continued in was the apostles doctrine, that is the study of God's Word, the Bible. The Bible is one of the ways how God speaks to His children. The Bible is like spiritual food. Just as you clothe and feed your physical body, you must clothe and feed your spiritual body. Get yourself a Bible that is easy to read, and establish a regiment in life of reading it. Everyday that you read the Bible, the

stronger and stronger you will become in the things of the Lord. The Bible is the compass that will guide you in all areas of your life.

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 2:15 KJV) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(Psalms 1:2 NKJV) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

(Psalms 1:3 NKJV) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

(Psalms 119:11 NKJV) Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

2. Fellowship:

Secondly we see in Acts 2:42 that they continued in fellowshiping. The Bible tells us we need to have fellowship one with another. The word fellowship simply means “sharing life”, our new life in Christ. You might compare fellowship to a heap of burning coals. If you separate one piece of coal from the others, it will get cold and die. Find yourself a church that teaches the Bible. Visit churches until you feel a peace in your heart that this is where the Lord wants you to be. Find a church where you can serve the Lord, and where you can be encouraged to not give up when things get hard.

(Hebrews 10:24 NKJV) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,

(Hebrews 10:25 NKJV) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

3. Breaking of Bread (Communion):

Thirdly, the believers in the church broke bread together, this is what we call communion today.

Communion is simply remembering what Jesus Christ did on the cross for you. When faced with things you do not understand (trials/tribulation), go back to what you do understand; God loves you so much that He endured the cross to purchase your life. Seeing God's love in its true Light, will keep everything else in perspective. (1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

4. Prayer:

The last thing we saw them do in Acts 2:42, was pray. Prayer is talking and listening to God. The Lord loves to hear from us! You can pray anytime you want to – driving your car, on your knees, wherever and whenever. (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18) (1 John 1:9) (Luke 11:1-14). God wants to talk with you, He wants to hear from you, it is the very reason that He created you.

5. Witnessing:

Now I might add to this, as we saw what the early church did, they witnessed, they told others about Jesus. As a result of praying, reading your Bible, and having fellowship, which are all taking things in, you'll want to start giving out. As you do, your relationship with the Lord will become more real, more sure, because you will continually be remembering His goodness and kindness towards you, how He pulled you from death to life, and how much He loves you. How do I witness you may ask, just tell them what He has done for you. God will take care of the rest.

[Close](#)

Lord Bless You in Your New Life / If no Decision – Quiet Place / Decision this side Eternity

Amen? Amen! May the Lord richly bless you as you walk with Him in this new life. If there is anything further you would like to discuss about the Lord, please don't hesitate to call or write to the church. If you have not made a decision today to follow Jesus, I pray that you will dwell on these things that have been spoken today, that you would get alone in a quiet place apart from all the hustle and bustle of everyday life, and ask God to speak to your heart about these things. A no decision, is the same as an answer no. The decision can only be made on this side of eternity, no second chances once you die. I pray that you will see the cross, the Holy God there upon it, and how much He loves you, that He would take your place, and that you will chose life today.

[Pray:](#)

Father, I thank you for this love letter that you have sent us, and the invitation to have fellowship with you. I thank you for sending Your only begotten Son Jesus Christ to take our place. Father I do pray for those that have made decisions to follow you today, that you will wrap them up in your arms of love, that they can hear the heartbeat of the God who loves them and cherishes them. Father I thank you for this new life you have given us. Please go before us today, bless and protect your people. In your name we pray – Amen. God Bless you.

(Revelation 14:7 NKJV) 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."

Made Everything – Evolution Debate Over

Verse 7 - "Worship the One who made everything you see," the angel will declare—putting a conclusive end to the evolution/creation debate. The theory of Evolution is one of Satan's greatest deceptions.

Angel Preaches Everlasting Gospel / Give You Opportunity / God present you Engagement Ring

The angel preaches the Everlasting Gospel. At the end of this study you will hear this Everlasting Gospel, and God will give you an opportunity to respond to it today, God is going to present an engagement ring to you, and ask you to marry Him. What will you say? The minute you say "I Do", the engagement ring immediately becomes a wedding ring.

(Revelation 14:8 NKJV) 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."

2 Babylons / Angel declares both Powerless / World Sys of Self-Service / Playboys - Divas

Babylon has fallen - Two Babylons are spoken of in Revelation: religious Babylon and commercial Babylon—the false religious system and the oppressive economic system. The second angel declares both are powerless. We will take a more in-depth on this in chapters 17 and 18. But for study purposes today Babylon spoken of here represents the world system, a system of self-satisfaction, self gratification. In the context of this study it is as a playboy, or diva lifestyle, Not wanting to answer to anybody, but to only serve self, It is a person who rejects His engagement offer. How many playboys and divas die alone, all alone.

(Revelation 14:9 NKJV) 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,

(Revelation 14:10 NKJV) "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.

(Revelation 14:11 NKJV) "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."

3 Angels – 3 Warnings

We have 3 angels with 3 warnings:

- First angel (proclaiming the Everlasting Gospel) says to, "turn to God and receive life".
- Second angel (Proclaiming Babylon has Fallen) says, "there is nothing worth holding on to here on this Earth,
- Third angel, brings this warning to all, if you take this mark you will be lost forever.

What being Said – Cup of World – Cup of His Wrath / Bride will not Drink of It – Jesus took It

What is being said here is that if drink of the cup of this world, there is another cup waiting, the cup of His wrath. For those who received Jesus, accepted his marriage proposal, became His Bride, will not drink of this cup for Jesus took the cup Himself so His Bride would not. For those who refused the engagement ring, rejected the proposal, who say I am not ready to settle down, and be tied down, will have to drink this cup, alone. How many playboys die alone.

Some Suggest Hell not Real / Angel Cry Passionately / Be an Angel

Those who suggest either that hell is not a literal place or that it won't last for eternity haven't read the Bible. In fact, Jesus taught more on the subject of hell than on the subject of heaven. That is why this angel cries with a loud voice, warning people to reject the mark of the Beast. There's lots of talk about angels these days as cute, cuddly creatures. But when you read this passage, you realize they are creatures who plead passionately, proclaim loudly, and preach vehemently because hell is real. It's not a game. I pray that you will be an angel. We do something nice, or just being a nice person, people say what an angel. I pray that you will be as these angels, with the same passion, proclaiming as loudly, hell is real.

Ish 20 / Assyrians Coming – not taken Serious / Isaiah was Educator – Eloquent / Walk Naked

I think of the twentieth chapter of Isaiah, where a most amazing thing happens. Although the Assyrians were headed in their direction, the people of Israel didn't take the threat seriously. Oh, come on, they thought. Certainly we won't be wiped out by the Assyrians. So God said to Isaiah—the eloquent orator, the educated, articulate prophet—"The stakes are high. But the people aren't listening. So I want you to take off your sandals, take off your clothes, and walk naked throughout this region for three years."

People grown Calloused / Naked is what Assyrians

Now, whether this was three years continually or three years sporadically, Bible scholars disagree. But the fact remains that stately Isaiah did, in fact, obey. Why was he told to do this? Because the people had grown so calloused to the prophets' words, they weren't heeding the message. So God used this bold move to get their attention and to illustrate the fact that, as captives of the Assyrians, the Israelites would be led naked across the desert into captivity for that is how the Assyrians treated their captives.

(Isaiah 20:2 NKJV) at the same time the LORD spoke by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, "Go, and remove the sackcloth from your body, and take your sandals off your feet." And he did so, walking naked and barefoot.

(Isaiah 20:3 NKJV) Then the LORD said, "Just as My servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and a wonder against Egypt and Ethiopia,

(Isaiah 20:4 NKJV) "so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians as prisoners and the Ethiopians as captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

Like Isaiah – we Live in Crucial Times / Our Friends going to Hell / Share Naked Truth

Like Isaiah, we, too, live in crucial times, gang. You have relatives. I have friends. We have co-workers who are going to hell because, like the Israelites, they have become calloused to the threat of hell. But the stakes are too high for us just to say, "Well, whatever." No, we must share the naked truth with them—not baring our bodies, but baring our souls.

They will Laugh / How about Isaiah

"But they'll laugh at me," you say. What do you think they did to Isaiah? Isaiah was eloquent, educated, respected; yet he would rather suffer humiliation to save his countrymen. That person in your life, is going to hell, for it is a literal place. If you don't care, then you need to check your heart. If you have no love for the lost, you need to take a deep look at your life. Christian when was the last time you tried to do something about it, when was the last time you shared the gospel. Get your eyes off yourself, and your problems, and look at the seriousness of hell.

Charlie Peace

Leonard Ravenhill tells of Charlie Peace, a convicted criminal sentenced to die by hanging. On his death-walk to the gallows, the prison chaplain glibly read him some Bible verses from a book called, "The Consolation of Religion." Charlie was shocked that a minister who professed to believe in the Bible could so coldly and professionally read about hell without so much as a tear in his eye or a quiver in his voice. How can he believe that there is an eternal fire that never consumes its victims and yet be so unmoved? Charlie mused to himself. Finally, unable to hold his peace any longer, the convict snapped at the chaplain, "If I believed what you and the church of God say you believe, even if England were covered with broken glass from coast to coast, I would walk over it, if need be, on hands and knees, and think it worthwhile living, just to save one soul from an eternal hell

There is a Time

There is a time when you have to speak. Don't buy the lie, I'll just be nice to them and my niceness will make them ask me about Jesus. You know what; there are a lot of nice people, just as nice as you, who do not know this truth of hell. Christian grab that person and say, "Friend, we have been friends for some time, you are precious and special to me, I have something important to share with you, can I share the good news of Jesus Christ with you. Write them a letter, give them one of our tapes, but don't wait any longer. You do it in love, and you can reach you did what the Lord called you to do.

Angels Preach Loudly / Share with Them / You'll Serve

Here in Revelation, the angels preach with a loud voice, "Don't take the mark. You'll be tormented forever." People are in tribulation even today. Share the everlasting gospel with them, and, like the angels, you'll soar in the heavenlies. I guarantee it! You will either evangelize or fossilize.

(Revelation 14:12 NKJV) Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

(Revelation 14:13 NKJV) Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

These are Saved after Rapture / Given to Comfort & Encourage them

These are those who get saved after the Rapture, and are enduring the Tribulation. This is a word of comfort and encouragement to them, yes you missed the Rapture, but continue to abide in Christ, hang on to Him, for your rest will come.

Verse 11 no Rest / Rest comes in Jesus / Suicide not Option

Notice verse 11 they have no rest speaking of those who took the mark, those who rejected Jesus as their Lord and Savior. But notice the saints who receive His marriage proposal will find rest. Let me put this out there while I am here, suicide will not bring rest, only peace and rest will come through giving your life to Jesus Christ, If your are listening to this on the other side of the rapture, suicide is not the escape, only receiving His marriage proposal.

The Harvest of God (14:14-16)

(Revelation 14:14 NKJV) Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle.

(Revelation 14:15 NKJV) And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

(Revelation 14:16 NKJV) So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Like Son of Man

One like the Son of Man: speaking of Jesus. Jesus identifies Himself throughout the scriptures as the Son of Man. This is the last time it is used in the Bible:

Not Harvest of Saints – Harvest of those Rejected Him / Harvest of the World

This is not the harvest of saints into the Kingdom, but all those who have rejected His offer of salvation. The harvest spoken of here is the harvest of the whole world.

Matthew 13 for More Detail

Read Matthew 13 for more detail of this time. God will separate the wheat from the tares.

Long over Due / 2 Peter 3:9

The cry is a plea, this is long overdue, it is time. 2 Peter 3:9, the Lord wishes that none should perish but all seek repentance.

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Men Confuse God's Patience / Time will Come / Never know when He will Say - Enough

Men today confuse God's patience and grace as His acceptance and understanding. There will come a day when God says, enough, no more. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says today is the day. Regardless on what side of the Tribulation a person is on. You will never know individually when God says-Enough. He, who has an ear, let Him hear what the spirit says:

(2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV) For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

The Wrath of God (14:17-20)

(Revelation 14:17 NKJV) Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle.

(Revelation 14:18 NKJV) And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe."

(Revelation 14:19 NKJV) So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.

(Revelation 14:20 NKJV) And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

Sin must be Judged – His Holiness / Sin Destroys / God Continually Offers

What we have in this Tribulation Period (7 year period) is God's Wrath against a Christ rejecting sinful world. Sin must be judged. God would not be a Holy God (as we saw in the Everlasting Gospel – Revelation 14:6-7) if He would wink at sin, and ignore it. Nor would God be a loving God if He allowed sin to go unchecked, for sin destroys. The Tribulation is the time where God is judging sin, yet at the same time showing great grace, as He will continually offer man to have peace with Him

(Revelation 6:16 NKJV) and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"

(Revelation 6:17 NKJV) "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

3 Specific Purposes – Shake – Wake - Make

As we study the Tribulation in chapters 6-19, we will see God doing 3 very specific things:

- To Shake-up the Heathen
- To Wake-up a Nation (Israel)
- To Make-up the Kingdom

Shake – Cruising / Keep Preaching

The purpose of the tribulation will be to shake-up the heathen. People are just cruising through life, thinking all is well, life is good, got my 2 cars, house, nice job, because I'm a nice person. They have no idea they are destined to hell because they have not sought a Savior for their sins. Christian keep preaching, keep sharing, keep telling them about the Rapture, because when you are gone, they will remember your words. When they enter into the Tribulation period after missing the Rapture, their life will be shaken, and they will see the need to be rescued. Part of the reason of the Tribulation is to shake-up the heathen:

Wake – God not Done with Israel / All Saved – God Protects in Tribulation

Secondly, part of the reason of the Tribulation is to Wake-up a nation, the children of Israel. God is by no means done with the nation of Israel, and we will read in the coming chapters how all of Israel will be saved (Rom 11:25-27). It will be during the Tribulation period that they will see that they missed their Messiah, and they will come to Him, and He will protect them (Rev 12:6).

Make-up Kingdom / Sort-Out

Thirdly, the purpose of the Tribulation is to make-up a Kingdom. God through the Tribulation will sort out those who love Him, and those who will not bow a knee, and then establish His Millennial Kingdom, then after that His heavenly Kingdom. Let me just add here, any Christian who says I really don't care about

ruling and reigning with Him in the Millennial Kingdom, I just want to make it into heaven, you will care when that day comes, and you'll be sorry that you didn't invest now, for what we do in our lifetime on earth will determine what we do in the Millennial Kingdom.

Not Appointed to Wrath

Now, before God's wrath comes down upon a Christ rejecting world, He is going to take His own out of here. For God has not appointed His children to wrath, and mind you the Tribulation is God's wrath against a Christ world:

(1 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV) For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rev 22 – Don't Add or Take Away / Point is to be Ready

Now the following passage may make some people uncomfortable, asking where are the funny feel good stories, I really didn't want to come hear something heavy on my Sunday morning. Revelation 22:19 says not to hold back or take away any portion of this word, judgment will come upon that person. Many churches are afraid to teach this Book because it will upset the people, exactly, that is the whole point to be READY.

(Revelation 22:18 NKJV) For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

(Revelation 22:19 NKJV) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Jesus Spoke on Hell / Hell is Real

Jesus spoke more on hell than He did heaven, there is a reason for that, for hell is a real place, and men and woman will dwell there. This passage isn't fire and brimstone to you that can still hear, it is a call of love, God crying out to you, hear ye this, and escape what is to come.

Harvest is Battle of Armageddon / 180 Miles of Blood

The harvest spoken of here is the description of the Battle of Armageddon, which we will study more about in Revelation 19. The battle initiates of evil against evil, a final battle for total world domination. But at this time Jesus will return and these two armies hatred for each other will be put aside for there common hatred for Jesus. But Jesus will crush them. The product of this wine press is blood, and the blood will flow 180 miles, 3 to 4 feet high. That is unimaginable.

Vine of Earth – True Vine / One Sucks Life – One gives Life

Verse 19 - The vine of the earth - The vine of the earth and all the by-products of that vine will be run through the winepress. On the other side there is a True Vine, and that is the vine we (who are believers – His Bride) are attached to. All we need to do is abide, just stay connected drawing our nutrition from the TRUE Vine. There is a vine of the earth and it is a pitiful vine, for everyone tapped into it are being suck dry by the vine, which rather than producing nutrients for its by-products, the vine sucks the life out of them in order to feed itself. These 2 vines, one that produces life, one that Jesus is the vine and He has a personal relationship with all that are attached to Him. The other vine, the vine of this world, produces no fruit, and must be destroyed.

(John 15:4 NKJV) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

(John 15:5 NKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

(John 15:6 NKJV) "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

(John 15:7 NKJV) "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

(John 15:8 NKJV) "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Continue to Abide

If you have made a commitment to Christ, abide, continue abiding in Him. I pray that you will seek to draw as close to the Vine as possible. Continue to abide Christian, don't let the vine of the earth cross over your branch and suck any life away. Before this trip I took the time to make sure my house is in order. Parents, are you making sure that your house is in order, the life you are drawing from Him are you imparting unto your children. Are you imparting life unto your spouse?

Culmination of Wrath of Lamb

This is the culmination of the wrath of the Lamb against a Christ rejecting world. But why you may ask, why must He bring His wrath? Sin must be judged. God would not be a Holy God if He would wink at sin, and ignore it. Nor would God be a loving God if He allowed sin to go unchecked, for sin destroys.

Opportunity to Respond / News-Message / Before Trip Check News that affect Destination

After a passage of Scripture such as this, I would be amiss to not give you an opportunity to respond to His offer of Salvation. The Gospel means "Good News", "Good Message". Before my trip I check the news to see what is going on in the world. Before my trip I check to see if there were any messages, information out there that could affect me making it to my final destination. Can I ask you this, if you were to die today, would you be sure that you would go to heaven?

[Click Here for Link back to the: Everlasting Gospel](#) (to read the Gospel in its entirety)

Grace

Yet even in the midst of all the "tribulation" we read today God still offering Grace through the Everlasting Gospel to any and all who come to receive it. We see in our passage a mighty witness of the 144,000 who show that if it (faithfulness and purity) can be done in the midst of the Tribulation, then it can be done today as well for all of us.

Outline: Grace Still Abounds (Revelation 14:1-20)

- The Witness of the 144,000 (14:1-5)
- The Everlasting Gospel (14:6-13)
- The Harvest of God (14:14-16)
- The Wrath of God (14:17-20)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need