

## **HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES presents...**

### **THE UNDILUTED, FULL STRENGTH, THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES**

#### **with enough power to...**

- **cleanse from all sin**
- **set us free from all bondage**
- **break all the power of the enemy over us**
- **restore us to total spiritual health**
- **develop immunity to all last-day deceptions**

#### **#17 – The First Angel's Message: It Is All You Need**

Look closely at the text of the first angel's message, and you will be amazed at both its simplicity and its comprehensiveness. I submit that in Revelation 14:6,7 you will find everything you need in order to overcome the deceptions of both Babylon and the beast. Preparation for end-time events can be amazingly simple, consisting of only four things. It is all about (1) the everlasting gospel, and our responses to this gospel, which are (2) to fear God, (3) to give glory to Him, and (4) and to worship Him. Every one of these concepts contains God's custom-designed vaccinations to guard us against the deadly viruses of Babylon and the beast.

- **THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL** is God's protection against all false gospels. False gospels cannot save because all such gospels are rooted in man's attempts to save himself. *"The principle that man can save himself by his own works lay at the foundation of every heathen religion...Satan had implanted this principle. Wherever it is held, men have no barrier against sin"* (E.G. White, Desire of Ages, p. 35). The everlasting gospel is the good news about God's covenant faithfulness as worked out in the life, death, resurrection, ascension and intercession of Jesus Christ. God has legally positioned us "in Christ" in order that all the accomplishments of Christ may be credited to our account through faith just as if we had done them. *"But of Him are you in Christ Jesus who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption"* (1 Corinthians 1:30). All other 'gospels' are bad news because they emphasize how hard you must strive (with God's help, of course) to attain to what is really a free gift. And the everlasting gospel is not 'legal fiction.' So legally secure and unassailable is the righteousness of Christ that the witnesses in heaven's open courtroom declare *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain..."* (Revelation 5:12). Do you believe that these witnesses are telling the truth? Will you join these witnesses by giving your own testimony? Such testimonies carry with them immense power: *"They overcame him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony"* (Revelation 12:11). The perfect assurance of salvation, based on Christ's perfect righteousness, is heaven's safeguard against all false gospels, whether it be the seductions of Babylon or the threats and power-plays of the beast.

Our responses to the everlasting gospel are to (1) fear God (2) give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment has come, and (3) worship Him as Creator. Here's how these three gospel responses protect us from the designs of the enemy.

- **FEAR GOD.** The 'fear of God' is healthy fear and is not to be feared, because it is God's protection against all other fears – fear of the judgment, fear of failure, fear of punishment, fear of rejection, fear of condemnation, and even fear of last-day events. The fear of God enables us to experience God's immense goodness for us. *"I will not turn away from them to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts,*

*that they shall not depart from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul*" (Jeremiah 32:40,4). Oswald Chambers correctly observed that *"the remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God you fear everything else."* And John Newton of "Amazing Grace" fame wrote, *" 'twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved."* The enemy's lie is that the more you fear the impending time of trouble, the greater will be your ability to detect and overcome deceptions. The opposite is actually true – the more you trust God the less you will fear anyone or anything else. It is when we believe that God is not BIG enough to handle our lives that we become sitting ducks for Babylon's seductions of tempting us to find love in all the wrong places. It is when we believe that God is not doing a good job that we will attempt to create our own idols (false gods which become beasts residing inside of us) to do a better job than we think God is doing. All unhealthy fears blind our eyes to the traps of Satan designed to have us adopt His agendas for our lives through force, fear, threat, coercion, control, and persecution. Unhealthy fear, rather than protecting us, binds us up in chains, holds us back, and prevents us from becoming the persons God created us to be. *"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?"* (Psalm 27:1).

- **GIVE GLORY TO HIM.** The purpose of the plan of salvation is not just our salvation, but its ultimate purpose is that *"we should be to the praise of His glory"* (Ephesians 1:12). If we are saved by any false gospel of works and human effort, then God cannot receive the credit and the glory. This is why Ephesians 2:8,9 declares that God has saved us by grace through faith, *"lest any man should boast."* Of all sins pride is the most dangerous and incurable because it always attempt to steal or detract from God's glory, which He will not give to another. Pride is actually low self-worth because we do not accept the worth Christ has placed on us through His worth. The allurement of Babylon is this: You can make a name for yourself, and you can fill your cup of low self-worth by looking for love in the wrong places [the harlotry of Babylon which is the abuse of love]. The enticement of the beast is this: You can have it your way through force, control, intimidation, manipulation et cetera [the methods of the beast – the abuse of power]. More than 300 years ago Isaac Watts penned these words describing the only cure for pride found in Calvary's cross: *When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride."* More specifically, we are to give glory to Him because *"the hour of His judgment is come."* Do you believe that the righteousness of Christ and His intercession for you now in heaven's courtroom is sufficient to save? If not, your unbelief slanders God's glory and the completeness of Christ's atonement. God is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.
- **WORSHIP HIM** Who created. The warning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> angel's message is *"if anyone worships the beast..."* (Revelation 14:9). If you want to overcome the beast, then focus all your energies on the worship of the Lamb. Worship is our total adoration and praise of the One who created us. The immense power of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, displayed in creation will cause us to approach all the difficulties and impossibilities in our lives with the confidence of these words: *"Ah, Lord God! Behold You have made the heaven and the earth by Your great power... There is nothing too hard for You"* (Jeremiah 32:16). To worship is to serve God with our praises, and He in turn fills our needs with His sufficiency. *"You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore"* (Psalm 16:11). Genuine worship is to *"delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the*

*desires of your heart*" (Psalm 37:4). Worship is to see what Jesus Christ is worth and to give Him what He is worth. This kind of worship has the power to pull our affections off our idols [beasts] and put them on our great and loving God.

How can you resist the allurements of Babylon's make-believe love? Bask in the immeasurable love of God in the everlasting gospel, and you will not need the substitutes for love offered by Babylon. Fear God and you will not fear rejection by others. Give glory to Him, and you will worship Him. How can you overcome the worship the beast? Believe the power of the everlasting gospel; and fear God, give glory to Him, and worship Him.

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