

An Eternal Gospel

The First Reading for Reformation Sunday is Revelation 14:6-7. It speaks of an *eternal gospel*.

The gospel is the good news of our redemption through the blood of the Lamb. It is eternal in that it will be preached to the end of time. This is not a new Gospel, since there is only one (Gal 1:6–8). The angel messenger proclaims the enduring message of deliverance from evil.

It is our privilege and duty to continue to do the angel's work in sharing that great news to the ends of the earth and to everyone no matter who they are or where they live. It is not a burden or "have to" but a favor "get to." More than that the Lord empowers us in every time and circumstance.

The stated purpose of proclaiming the "eternal Gospel" is to move people to "fear God" and "give to him glory" and "worship him," all in view of his coming judgment. Proverbs 9:10 shows the important role that "fear of the Lord" plays when it says: *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

Such fear comes from learning about God through the hearing of his Word. It is both the Law which leads us to repentance and the Gospel which proclaims the good news that our sins have been forgiven. Therefore the Lord is to be glorified and worshiped. We have that opportunity every weekend.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for your gospel of all time. Thank you for taking the fear out of the judgment. Thank you for letting us be a participant in the sharing of this great news. Help us to do so effectively. Amen.