

The final message of the three angels form the core message of the book of Revelation and is an echo of the message of the church throughout history.

Message One: The Proclamation of the Eternal Gospel: Fear God and Give Him Glory

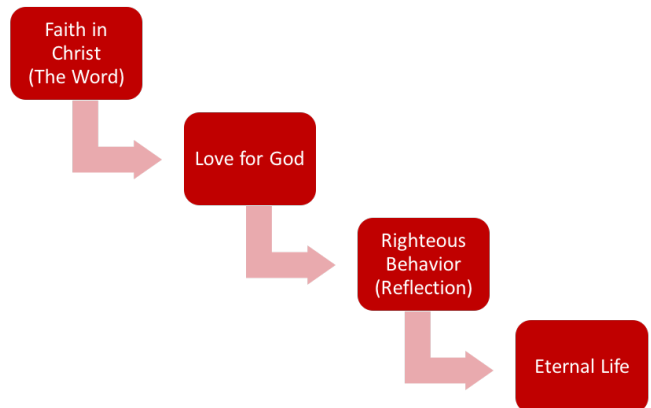
Contrasting a Damning Fear and a Saving Fear of God

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (Genesis 3:8 ESV)

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. (Revelation 1:17-18 ESV)

The Fear of the Lord

1. The fear of the Lord draws near to Christ in faith.
2. The fear of the Lord worships Christ exclusively.
3. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
4. The fear of the Lord walks in obedience to Christ.



How to Respond to Message One:

Believe it. Rejoice in it. Share it.

Message Two: Fallen, Fallen is Babylon the Great

All the kingdoms of this world are passing away—even the most spectacular. The best this world can offer is the fleeting pleasure of sin that yields only shame, condemnation, and judgment.

⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God... ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. (Hebrews 11:9-10, 24-26 ESV)

How to Respond to Message Two:

Live free from the love of possessions and earthly power and for the greater joy of righteousness.

Message Three: A Warning to the Deceived

They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the *presence [lit. face]* of the Lord and from the glory of his might, (2 Thessalonians 1:9 ESV)

The LORD make his *face* to shine upon you and be gracious to you; (Numbers 6:25 ESV)

The terror of hell for the wicked is not that God is completely absent, but that he is in some manner present. The glory of God's without his favor is terrifying.

How to Respond to Message Three:

Heed it yourself and love people enough to warn them.

¹⁷ "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ¹⁸ If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. (Ezekiel 3:17-18 ESV)

Grounded in the hope of your eternal salvation, endure in faith and obedience in all circumstances.

“Death may win its battles, but Life will win the war.” – Michael Svigel

“The Christian faith is a forward-looking faith.” – Randy Gunter

1. For those in Christ, death loses.

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ESV)

2. Rest and eternal reward are coming.

¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. (1 Corinthians 3:12-14 ESV)

3. The security of our hope produces persevering lives of faith.

¹ Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. (Hebrews 4:1-2, 9-11 ESV)

The securing work of the Holy Spirit is matched by the perseverance of his sanctifying ministry.

Jesus is coming back to gather his people unto himself and judge the wicked.

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. (Matthew 13:36-43 ESV)

²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matthew 24:29-31 ESV)

³⁴ "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:34-36 ESV)

Stop by Ministry Central tonight to fill out an encouragement card for healthcare workers at Gadsden Regional and Riverview. There are two tables with cards, pens, and baskets to drop them off.