

Walking Together Sunday
Revelations 14:6
October 17, 2010

Dear Messengers of the Gospel, together in Christ Jesus.

Walking might not get you where you want to go. If you want to get further, you might consider running. If the destination is at greater distance, and you wish to arrive fairly soon, you will probably use some sort of motorized transportation, a motorcycle, car, bus or even a train. If the distance is fairly far and you want to get there as fast as possible, you are going to fly.

These words talk about flying. Since the destination is everywhere on Earth, really flying is the only option.

In this vision, St. John sees an angel. But our attention isn't so much on the angel as on what he is transporting. God wants His messengers to carry His eternal Gospel everywhere as fast as possible.

Because people are dying by the thousands every day, and other thousands are being born every day, it is indeed critical that the Good News of Jesus Christ keep flying everywhere.

The Gospel Is Flying
I. Through God's people
II. To all people

The word 'angel' actually means 'messenger.' Who is this messenger flying with and telling Jesus' Good News of forgiveness and rescue for eternal life?

This messenger is every single Christian, each person who relies on the resurrected Jesus, the Savior of the world from sin, death, satan and hell. Every single follower of Jesus has the Gospel to tell and share.

Why do I say that? – Because it is the eternal Gospel that made every Christian a Christian. All people, us too, are natural-born, lost sinners. Sin separated us, and everyone else, from the living God. Sin brings guilt; guilt brings condemnation, which leads to the sentence of death. Unless Jesus comes to judge the world before we have a chance to die, the chance of death for everyone is 100%. That's because 100% of all people are sinners. Each one is conceived and born in Adam's sin.

Only God's power can free us from our sinful condition and its consequences. That power God placed into His Gospel. The Gospel is the power of God for saving people, as St. Paul wrote to the Romans.

The message of the Gospel, also as it is connected to Baptism and the Lord's Supper, brings Jesus, His life, and death, and resurrection, all for us, to us. So, every Christian has the Gospel.

You have it. I have it. We have it to tell, to proclaim, to share. This includes pastors. It includes missionaries. It includes everyone who teaches people the truth of the Bible. The Bible centers in Jesus. It also includes moms, dads, grandparents, children, friends, neighbors, workers, students, and travelers whether for business or pleasure. Wherever there is a believer in the Jesus of Scripture, whatever situation that believer is in, he/she has the Gospel.

The thing is every one of those disciples has the call from God to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to everyone.

And clearly God wants us to fly with it. He wants us to do this flying with the Gospel in mid-air, that is, in plain view. You've seen those small aircraft pulling a huge banner across the sky advertising some company, business, or event. That's done so lots of people will see it.

So, how are we doing? Are we flying with the Gospel? I guess we'd better get personal here. Each one of us needs to examine himself or herself. Don't worry about the one sitting next to you or over there. What about self? Are we giving wings to the everlasting Good News of Jesus Christ? Do we watch for chances to tell of the Savior? Do we take every opportunity that God puts in our way?

Jesus said, "You shall be My witnesses..." And He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations."

When you and I don't do that, is that not a sin? Is sin disobeying God? Then, not to fly with the Gospel and plainly share it is a sin, a sin of not doing what we should do.

But it is scary to openly proclaim the Gospel, isn't it? Before we ever get to Revelation 14, we meet some terrible monsters. John saw one of them as fiery red with seven heads and ten horns. He was trying to get rid of Jesus. When that didn't work, he went after the Christian Church. Revelation tells us his name, satan, the devil. Then another horrible monster rises from the seas. He works for the devil. He is all the governments that persecute Christians. Then a third monster appears from the Earth. This one looks different, less scary, but is just as deadly for Christians. He looks like a lamb, like the lamb, actually, like Jesus. But there's a problem. His voice is that of the devil. He is false religion, false Christs, false preachers and teachers. It shows him working with the monster of unfriendly government for satan. This is like a nightmare about powerful monsters all trying to destroy the people of Christ.

Isn't this why we are tempted to stay under the radar, not in mid-air? Is this why we might wish to keep quiet, to blend in with our ungodly surroundings? Do not fear! The monsters are going to lose. Christ is the Winner. That's the whole point of the Book of Revelation!

So, to whom are we to fly in mid-air with the Gospel? "To all who live on the Earth" – to every nation, tribe, language and people.

Not one of us can get to everyone on the Earth! God knew that, too! That's why we do it together with others. You are not alone even here. This is a congregation of believers in Jesus. So, we need to work together at flying the Gospel plainly and openly to everyone. And this congregation is not alone. It is together with 1,000 other congregations, some small, some large,

Rev. Dale R. Schulz
www.stjohnsde.org

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
Newark, DE

in the United States and Canada, and with still more groups of Christians of the same convictions around the globe! Together in our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod we prepare pastors, teachers, and missionaries, and we work together to take the Gospel to other places, domestic and foreign, and we work together to spread God's Word by the printed word or by whatever other wonderful ways we have these days to get the message of forgiveness because of Jesus to all the corners of the world.

As a synod, we walk together in all of this. Today, let's say we fly together. In fact, let's repent of our walking and strive to fly by the power of Jesus Christ and His Word.

Let the Gospel fly through us, the people of God, to all people. Amen.