

apostolic simplicity of doctrine and worship, and when a broad denominational charity has developed into an all-comprehensive and almost boundless religious licentiousness, the people need, above all things, the authentic history of apostolic Christianity, demonstrating as it does, the utter abrogation of everything ritualistic and sacerdotal. In short, the whole world needs to be brought back to, and brought up to this old Word of God as the one and unchangeable standard of morals, faith, worship and life; and the great mission of the one true Church—the angel of God—is to keep us all to this Word as the everlasting verity, and to tolerate no deviation from it, according to the commandments, traditions and theories of men.

We must industriously disseminate this Gospel Book, as if it were in every detail and particular, as necessary and as suitable for to-day as for any day preceding, as if it were indeed “*everlasting*”—beyond change or amendment or improvement—as if, in place of being behind our age, *before it*. And “*everlasting*” it is, because (1) it emanated from the heart and mind of the everlasting God, with whom is no variableness or shadow of turning; because (2) its grand central figure is the divine Son, “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”—our world being but the stage on which the divine drama, “The Christ” was to be enacted, and time and history being but the accompaniments, the scenery, the subordinate supporters in the development and manifestation of this central idea of God; this Gospel is everlasting, because (3) it deals with man’s moral and spiritual nature, which is radically and substantially the same to-day that it was in the days of Cain and Nimrod, of Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus, of Julius Caesar and Jesus Christ. Many wonderful changes have passed over the world and its population since then, I grant; civilization has taken the place of rude barbarism, the persistent industry of science has divulged and utilized many of nature’s mysteries, popular governments and restless inventions have greatly multiplied all our domestic and social comforts; but men and women, whatever their knowledge and whatever their improved modes of living and travelling and communicating thought, are, beyond all dispute, still spiritually fallen and lost; (4) This Gospel is “*everlasting*,” because it holds out to these ruined and lost ones, a completed, finished, everlasting salvation. *The righteousness* herein provided is “*everlasting*,” because it is divine—the personal righteousness of “God manifest in the flesh;” *the peace* herein spoken of is “*everlasting*,” because it is peace grounded on and flowing from the work and suffering of God Himself; *the life* herein offered is “*everlasting*,” because it is the life of the eternal Jehovah; and *the kingdom* to which it points is “*everlasting*,” because it is not of this world, but stands beyond and above time in *eternity*.

Men and brethren, let us endeavour to receive deep into our souls the mighty meaning of this word “*everlasting!*” In moments of despondency, when we have reason to fear our work is a failure, we may be hard tempted to doubt whether this simple ancient Bible Gospel will meet satisfactorily the demands of our restless and aggressive age, whether, in these times of such intense practicalness and rapid scientific enterprise, when, from the wonder-lands of astronomy, geology, chemistry, and comparative anatomy the excited cry, Eureka! Eureka! is ever and anon bursting, something else and something more than this oldest of all books may not, perhaps, be needed. Our text ought to settle all such doubt and debate and reassure our hearts. This Bible-Gospel is “*everlasting*,” while Earth, Time, and Man come in only as so many links in the long chain of its antecedents and consequents. Looking at the history of the last four centuries, we cannot help standing amazed at the march of mighty intellect, and looking out into the future, already blossoming with the promise of boundless possibilities, one dares not venture to predict what the achievements of science and philosophy, mechanics, commerce and politics may be; our own descendants will, no doubt, contemplate with a quiet smile our boasted civilization and exhibit as curiosities in some museum specimens of our latest machinery;