

The three-fold purpose of “The Unveiled Gospel” is as follows.....

1. To help our subscribers grow in their Bible knowledge through articles from various writers.
2. To offer our subscribers Biblical weekend seminars to encourage the faithful.
3. To assist our subscribers in evangelizing their own communities (weekdays only).

*For more information, please call Danny @ 719-980-0587 or Tom @ 719-964-8493.
You can email us at info@theunveiledgospel.org.*

To subscribe, send email to danny@theunveiledgospel.org or tom@theunveiledgospel.org. Please include how many copies are needed for congregational or personal subscriptions. Also, include address, contact name, phone number and email address. All subscriptions are free for now. Still, any donations made to this new domestic mission work would be greatly appreciated. To donate, please send checks or money orders made out to Limon church of Christ, P.O. Box 391, Limon, CO 80828. Please earmark them for “The Unveiled Gospel.”

Thanks to all.

The Unveiled Gospel

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The Unveiled Gospel

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God’s High Estimation of the Church

In Matthew 16:18, we read of where Jesus spoke of His church in which He promises to “build my church” in which even the “gates of Hades will not overpower it.” It is not uncommon today for people to talk against the church in which they say, “Jesus, yes; but the church NO.” Some will even profess to love Jesus, have a great desire to follow Him, and have little use for “the church.” This low estimation of the church may be due to several reasons like, a lack of understanding of what the church truly is, as taught in the Scriptures. Until we understand the value that God has placed on His church we will never truly appreciate what we are a part of.

Paul understood the church and esteemed it highly, especially in the book of Ephesians. Look what he says about the church:

1. Christ is the “head over all things to the church” – 1:22. Since Christ is the head of the church, He has authority over all things, rules over all things for the benefit of His church!
2. The church “is His body” – 1:23. We as the church are the body of Christ of which He is the head.
3. The church is “the fullness of Him who fills all in all” – 1:23. If the church constitutes His fullness, then if one is in Christ, by implication he or she must be in the church!
4. The church is part of God’s “eternal purpose” – 3:10-11. The manifold wisdom of God is made known through the church in keeping with God’s eternal purpose; i.e. His plane which He had from eternity.
5. To God be “glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations” – 3:21. God is glorified in this world because of the church.
6. “He Himself is the Savior of the body” – 5:23. Yes, Christ wants all men to be saved, but it’s only the one’s in the church of which He is the Savior.
7. Christ “loved the church and gave Himself up for her” – 5:25. Because of His great love, He died for the church.
8. Jesus wants to “present to Himself the church in all her glory” – 5:26-27. His desire is for the church to have no spot or wrinkle.
9. Jesus “nourishes and cherishes” the church – 5:29-30. He gives the church everything she needs.

~Danny Aragon, church of Christ, Kim CO

EVANGELISM - MINISTRY ACTIVITIES OF "THE UNVEILED GOSPEL"

Throughout the month of August, the men of "The Unveiled Gospel" are continuing numerous Home Bible Studies throughout the various cities and towns of Southeastern Colorado. Please pray for the open hearts of all involved in these studies so that the Lord's Word may be planted and souls be saved.

Humpty Dumpty

An old nursery rhyme from my childhood referred to an egg sitting on a wall. Long before my childhood, this rhyme first appeared in *Juvenile Amusements* by Samuel Arnold in 1797. History says that originally this rhyme was published as a riddle with the answer being an egg. It later became a story about an egg named Humpty Dumpty that fell off a wall, and then all the king's horses and all the king's men could not put Humpty Dumpty back together again. He was broken beyond repair, but today perhaps he would be made into an omelet.

Although a broken egg cannot be put back together, people today have learned how to fix a wide variety of broken objects. Still some things remain beyond repair for even the best of handymen. Likewise, people sometimes reach a point where only God can make them right again. God could have put Humpty Dumpty back together again, and He can make us better through His Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only One who can forgive our sins, and redeem us from our sins.

God can also revive a nation when the citizens turn back to Him and seek His help. There are simply some things that no one can do regardless of their talent or desire. Old Testament history and down through the ages since then, when any nation turns from God, disaster follows. It matters not the size of the military or the wealth of the nation, God determines the times and boundaries of nations (Acts 17:26). He is overall, and He is powerful enough to even put a broken egg back together.

There is nothing beyond His capability. God can do anything that is within the realm of His nature, and will. Jesus once said that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:24). When questioned by His disciples about how anyone could then be saved, Jesus responded, "*With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible*" (Matthew 19:26). With God a ninety-year-old woman can give birth to a promised son. With God we can have our sins forgiven through the death of His Son on a cross. With God we can recognize a revival. Without Him man is not able to save himself. Give God the glory!

~Terry Smalling, church of Christ, La Junta CO

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The Sum of God's Word

A common misconception among those who call themselves Christians is what the church of Christ teaches about salvation. Many would say that we teach that a person has to be baptized in order to be saved, but they believe you need to believe in Jesus to be saved. They believe that you can either teach that a person is saved by faith or the person is saved by baptism. How do you explain to someone that you also believe that one must have faith in order to be saved? Psalm 119:160 says that it is the sum of God's word that is truth.

Often I will hear someone say that they did not get much sleep because they woke up at 7:00 a.m. Then someone else will say that they have been up since 5:00am. Which of the two got less sleep? We find ourselves making the assumption that the one getting up at 5:00 a.m. got less sleep. We do not know without more information. We don't have the full truth. The first person was working until 3:00 a.m. and then went to sleep getting less than four hours of sleep. The second person went to bed at 8:00 p.m. getting nine hours of sleep. Without knowing when they went to bed we don't have the truth, we just have a piece the truth. A piece of the truth is not the truth.

If you asked someone how much money that had on them and they said that they had a \$5 bill, then you find out that they also had a \$20 bill on them. When you ask why they lied to you, then they insist that they didn't lie because they did have a \$5 bill. They only gave you a piece of the truth. It takes all the pieces to get the whole truth.

If someone told you that you needed to believe in Jesus to be saved, then that would not be the truth. It is a piece of the truth. The Bible does say that you have to believe in Jesus to be saved, John 3:16, but it is the sum of God's word that is truth.

If another says you must repent in order to saved, then that would not be the truth. Jesus says that if we don't repent then we will perish, Luke 13:1-3, but the scripture also says that we have to believe.

Don't we have to confess Jesus as our Lord in order to be saved? We do according to Romans 10:9-10, but the scripture also says that we need to believe and repent. It is easy to focus on one verse of the Bible and ignore the rest. It is all the parts added together, the

sum of God's word that equals the truth.

Does baptism save us? According to 1 Peter 3:21, baptism now saves us, but it is also written that we must believe, repent, and confess. It takes all of these to save us. We must also remain faithful to stay saved, Rev. 2:10; Heb. 10:26. The Bible also gives us many other commands, when added together, equals the whole truth.

When Satan was using scripture to tempt Jesus in Matthew 4:7, Jesus answered, "It is also written..." (NIV). He taught us that it is the sum of God's word that is truth, not just a piece here and there.

~ Steven Sprouse, church of Christ, Rocky Ford CO

Church of Total Transformation

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

We need to examine the idea of transformation. Coming to Christ means we are coming to learn from Him (Matthew 11:29). He came to reveal to us the perfection of God's will. His obedience to God's love painted the picture of being a true servant. He was faced with many challenges to please the flesh but He never took His eyes off His purpose on this earth, to glorify God. This is the meaning of the Bible's idea of spiritual transformation. If this transformation is going to take place within us we must be willing to die to sin, be buried with Him and then be raised again (Romans 6:1-4).

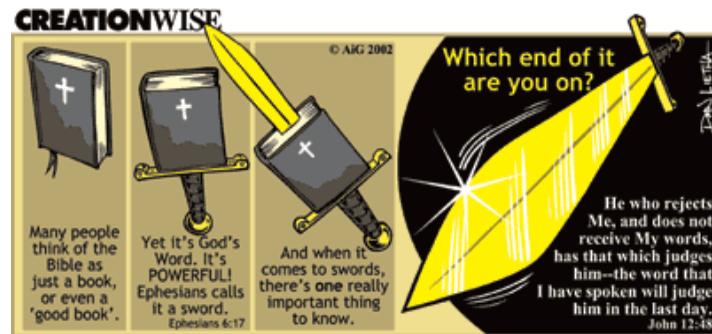
Transformation is defined in Paul's writing as a "renewing" of the mind. Just from an elementary reading of this word one receives the idea of change. Thayer's lexicon defines this Greek word as, "complete change for the better." God knows where our fleshly mindset is trying to lead us so He gave His Son to come and reveal to us a better way of life. He did not come to show us how to live our lives better but to teach us how to live a better life. He even tells us that this is the only life that can be lived if we are living for God: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me'" (John 14:6). In the flesh we have tendency to try to out think God and this causes us to rationalize our sins and situations in life. That was before we allowed God Spirit to lead us in a covenant relationship with God: "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God" (Romans 8:14).

THIRTY RULES OF BIBLE STUDY – RULE SIX

As God’s children we should allow His Son to do more than motivate us to get up out of bed on Sundays and attend services. We should allow the example of God’s Son to renew our minds: “When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things” (1 Corinthians 13:11). Paul is not belittling anyone but encouraging people to see things through spiritual eyes. As we grew up we became less rebellious toward our parents because we learned the value of their love and the teaching that love provided for us. The rebellious attitude came from a “childish” mindset. It is the same with obeying God. As we mature in our relationship with Him, we become less defiant of His love and the teachings His love provides for us. In fact, we become more like Christ every day.

Total transformation is God’s plan for every one of us, and it begins with the way we think. The way we think about ourselves (Romans 12:3), the way we think about others (Philippians 2:3) and even the way we think about the church (Matthew 12:50). I encourage you to study these passages and allow God’s truth to renew your mind and continue in the transformation process. God built His church on faith in His Son and He adds daily to the church those who receive His word and are baptized for the forgiveness of their sin (Acts 2). When people allow this renewal of mind to take place the transformation has begun. As we continue to grow in our faith this transformation continues through our hearts: “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Colossians 3:12). And it continues through our hands: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). Allow God’s love to continue to bring total transformation to your life.

~ Cub Orcutt, church of Christ, Trinidad CO



Rule six of Bible study is that even as Christ was in the grave for three days (Matt. 16.21; Mark 8.31; Luke 9.20-22; 24.6-7; John 2.19), three times of inviting one to a Bible study to come out of one’s own spiritual grave is enough without over-aggressive pressuring of one (Matt. 10.11-15; Mark 6.10-11; Luke 9.4-5; Acts 13.48-52). The prime example for use of this rule can be seen in the divine conversion of the infamous Saul who was in the darkness of sin as a persecutor of the Christians (Acts 9.1-19; 22.1-16; 26.1-18). Hence, appearing to him in all of His glory, Jesus blinded Saul for three days (Acts 9.9) wherein his eyesight was restored to him. Consequently, Saul who was also known as Paul (Acts 13.9) responded to the “invitation” to become a Christian via his own baptism into Christ.

Resultant of Paul’s three days of blindness and baptism, he transitioned from persecuting Christians to converting Christians in conformity to Jesus’ orders to him (Acts 26.15-18). Therefore, in context of Jesus’ words, the kingdom job of the famous apostle Paul was to help God transition individuals from the darkness of sin into the glorious light of His Son. Or, he helped lost souls turn from the dominion (power) of Satan to God. The souls who become sanctified (made holy and pure) by their faith in Christ Jesus receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance of eternal life in heaven. Thus, as there are many lost souls in the world, three times of trying to get them to come out of their spiritual graves (of Satan, sin, and death) is sufficient. After three failed tries, it is time to seek out other lost souls.

Accordingly, there appears to be more to this “three tries” rule than meets the eye. For example, three appears to be the Bible number that references God including Father and Son and Holy Spirit (Matt. 3.16-17; 28.18-20), and their works (Gen.-Rev.; 1 John 7-8). The divinely ordained three-day death of Jesus and blindness of Paul offer adequate proof of this. God thought Jesus being in the grave for three days (before His resurrection to new life) was satisfactory for bringing lost souls to Him. After all, Saul (apostle Paul) was brought to Christ after being blinded for three days, and then he went on to become perhaps the greatest evangelist in the New Testament (2 Tim. 4.1-8). If the “three tries” rule is good enough for God, then it should be good enough for each Christian evangelist.

~ Tom Wright, church of Christ, Limon CO

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.” (Romans 12:9-10)