

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.

To subscribe, send email to dapreacher238@hotmail.com or didymusbooks@juno.com. 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

P.O. Box 132
Kim, CO 81049

The Unveiled Gospel

Volume: 1 Co-editors: *Danny Aragon / Tom Wright* July 2016

Listen To God Alone

My daily Bible reading recently came from 1 Kings 13, which presents a disturbing event with valuable lessons for us. This took place during the time King Jeroboam reigned over the ten northern tribes of Israel. He was concerned that the people of Israel would return to offer sacrifices in Jerusalem living under King Rehoboam, so he made it more convenient to worship in two northern cities of Bethel and in Dan (1 Kings 12:29). Unfortunately, he did this without God’s approval. According to 1 Kings 12:33, he “*devised this in his own heart.*”

A man of God from Judah comes, and cries out against this practice. He is speaking by the word of the LORD (1 Kings 13:2). Jeroboam tried to seize the man of God, but when he did, his hand “*dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself*” (1 Kings 13:4). God protected him from the wicked king. Jeroboam then tried to win him over to his side, but the man of God saw through his ploy and refused any reward. God had commanded him “*You shall eat no bread, nor drink water, nor return by the way which you came*” (1 Kings 13:9).

The disturbing event then takes place when “*an old prophet*” persuaded the man of God to do what God had told him not to do. The old prophet says, “*an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD*” (13:18). The problem was that the prophet’s message contradicted what the LORD had told the man of God. Regardless, the man of God, for whatever reason, accepted what the old prophet said. As a result, he was killed by a lion on his way home.

So what are the lessons for us? One is found in Galatians 1 where Paul warns, “*But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed*” (Galatians 1:8). The old prophet contradicted the word of the LORD, but the man of God listened to what his ears, and stomach, wanted to hear. We must not do likewise, and there are plenty of the ear ticklers around today.

Paul pronounces their presence in 2 Timothy 4:3, “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires.*” We must follow the inspired word of God rather than listening to anyone, even an angel, telling us what we want to hear.

The lion is still among us. As 1 Peter 5:8 states, “*Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*” **BE ALERT!** Satan wants nothing more than to draw us away from the truth of God’s word.

~Terry Smalling, church of Christ, La Junta CO

EVANGELISM - MINISTRY ACTIVITIES OF "THE UNVEILED GOSPEL"

Upcoming Events:

July: **2016 Christian Conference**

Theme: "Love the Brethren"

Hosted by the Alamosa Church of Christ

Saturday, July 23, 2016

Conference Schedule and Guest Speakers:

9:00 a.m. Adam Hahn from Calhan, CO, "Fellowship With The Lord and One Another" - 1 John 1:7

10:00 a.m. Tom Wright from Limon, CO, "Love Christ and The Brethren, and Not The World" – 1 John 2:1-29

11:00 a.m. Richard Merrill from Security, CO, "Passage From Death To Life" - 1 John 3:14

12:00 p.m. Lunch provided by the Alamosa Church of Christ

1:00 p.m. Danny Aragon from Kim, CO, "He First Loved Us" - 1 John 4:19

2:00 p.m. Steve Sprouse from Rocky Ford, CO, "How To Win Life" 1 John 5:1-21

**Alamosa Church of Christ
408 Victoria Street
Alamosa, CO 81101**

**For more details call or write us at:
Telephone: 719-589-4236
Email: info@alamosacofc.org**

All are welcomed to attend this important event.

August 2016

14-17 Souix City, IA Gospel Meeting – "God's Wonderful Word"

**THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST GREET YOU:
(Romans 16:16)**

Alamosa church of Christ, *Silbano Garcia*, evangelist:
408 Victoria St., P.O. Box 1183, Alamosa, CO 81101 (719-589-4236)

Burlington church of Christ, *Spencer Newburn* evangelist:
199 Vine St, Burlington, CO 80807 (719-346-7106)

Kim church of Christ, *Danny Aragon*, evangelist:
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La Junta church of Christ, *Terry Smalling*, evangelist:
921 Cimarron Ave, La Junta, CO 81050 (719-384-4755)

Limon church of Christ, *Tom Wright*, evangelist:
330 N Ave. P.O. Box 391, Limon, CO 80828 (719-964-8493)

Rocky Ford church of Christ, *Steve Sprouse*, evangelist:
518 S. Main St., Rocky Ford, CO 81067 (719-469-4952)

Trinidad church of Christ, *Cub Orcutt*, evangelist:
1000 Nevada Ave, Trinidad, CO 81082 (719-846-2919)

Walsenburg church of Christ, *D.J. Overman*, evangelist:
416 Walsen Ave., P.O. Box 327, Walsenburg, CO 81089 (719-738-1542)

Walsh church of Christ, *Kenton Dykes*, member:
646 Missouri, Walsh, CO 81090 (719-688-1148)

Stumbling Blocks

“It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he would cause one of these little ones to stumble” (Luke 17:2).

Through the power of hindsight, I can see that most of my mom’s anger toward me came from my lack of reverence toward her. Many times I took her compassionate warnings too lightly and went on with my plan of disobedience, doom, demise and eventual destruction. I spent many days confined to the borders of my house because I did not heed the warnings of a gracious mother. My ignorance to the obvious love of her stern warnings caused me to miss many opportunities to enjoy the freedom my friends were outside enjoying.

A specific warning, we tend to take too lightly as disciples is Jesus’ warning about being stumbling blocks to those who seek a relationship with Him. Jesus shows the severity of causing anyone to stumble, but in this case specifically, “little children.” Scholars squabble about the two different ways to see this warning. Some say He is speaking of children; others say immature Christians is His scope in this passage. But reality is that either way being a stumbling block to anyone is something we should avoid at all costs. In context, Jesus is speaking of “little children”, but that does not remove the severity of being a stumbling block to others also. If we are to take this warning seriously, we must honestly examine ourselves to see what example we are leaving for others. We must make sure we are living by faith to reveal true love for Jesus.

One specific way we do not take this warning seriously is when we choose not to attend services on a regular basis. There are probably a million or more reasons for not attending the worship service and everyone thinks theirs is excusable. But really, do we believe there is any excuse for disobedience? Satan tries to convince us that whatever excuse we can come up with will be good enough, but God is love and love never gives excuses for failures because “love never fails” (1 Corinthians 13:8). When we choose to stay out of the Lord’s assembly we are teaching others around us that giving something else higher priority is acceptable to God. This causes one to become a stumbling block because forsaking the assembly is not how to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33), which is what mature Christians should be teaching the “little ones.” We cause others to stumble when we choose to place higher priority on our earthly relationships rather than our relationship with God. If we are going to avoid becoming stumbling blocks then we must make God, His Son, His will and His church our highest priority.

Another common way we become stumbling blocks is in the way we use our tongues. Many times we speak and not even give the words we use a second thought. James shows the severity of improper words: “If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless” (James 1:26). We become stumbling blocks to others when we do not take God’s warning about our speech seriously. When we spread rumors, or lie, or speak with cruel intentions we are teaching others that a relationship with God is not as important as speaking what is on our minds. But a true disciple will deny himself by allowing one of the features of the fruit of God’s Spirit, self-control, to prevail over our fleshly mindset. We will choose not to focus on what we think will make us feel better, but we will focus on what we know will make better disciples. The tongue is an easy way for Satan to do damage to our relationship with God because we choose not to take our speech seriously.

~ Cub Orcutt, church of Christ, Trinidad CO

God’s Demanding Word

One of my favorite passages in the Old Testament is Nehemiah 8. It was a time of restoration for the Jews that came back to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity. Nehemiah had returned and finished work on the walls around Jerusalem and was continuing his work of rebuilding. In chapter 7, we see the people are now restoring the temple rebuilding and worship. In chapter 8, Ezra brings out the “book of the law” and reads it to the people. The text says he read it to “all who could listen with understanding” verse 2. Beginning with verse 3, the people who are listening to the word of God being read gave it what it still demands from us today.

The first thing they gave the Word of God was their attention. Verse 3, states, “all the people were attentive to the book of the law.” Have you ever thought how God’s Word demands that from us? It’s not an ordinary book to be skimmed over and very little attention given to it. God’s people are people who want to hear what God says to them. Ezra read from the law from “early morning until midday.” You notice that the exact amount of time he read isn’t given. How much attention they gave to the Word of God is extraordinary. We complain when church services go overtime (like we have a limit to the time we worship). If we had to hear someone read from the law of Moses for that long how much attention would we give to it after the first 20 or 30 minutes?

THIRTY RULES OF BIBLE STUDY – RULE FIVE

The next thing they gave the Word of God was their respect. Verse 5 states, “Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.” When they stand up they are showing the Lord that His Word is worthy of respect. When I was a young boy I used to toss everything on the coffee table when I came home. Once I tossed my Bible on it pretty nonchalantly. When my mother saw it she explained to me how this book (the Bible) is not just an ordinary book. This book contains the very words of God and that I should show it more respect than that. We know it to be a custom for the reader to stand, but it wasn’t for the listener. They knew they were about to hear the Word of God, and they couldn’t stay sitting in the pew, on the grass, in their chair. They knew that God’s word demands respect.

Then in verse 6 it states, “Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all they people answered, ‘Amen, Amen!’ while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. This verse is amazing! Right after Ezra reads the law to them, they worship the Lord. God’s Word demands that we worship the Author. The Jews realized who this word came from. It wasn’t something Ezra coerced the people into doing. They did it because of who the Author of the Word is. When God’s Word is read attentively and respect is given to it; worship of the Author comes naturally.

From verses 9-18, we find the last thing God’s Word demands from its readers, ACTION! The Jews who are in Jerusalem during this reading of God’s Word act on what they have just heard. They first responded/acted emotionally. God’s Word should move us emotionally as well. They next responded/acted joyfully. Nehemiah, Ezra and the Levites had to tell the people “not to be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” When we read God’s Word it should not only move us emotionally and joyfully, but it should cause to act upon the words which were read. Greater obedience to the Word is what the Lord wants from His children. They celebrated in booths, like the word of the Lord told them, verse 17. This hadn’t been done since Joshua’s time. God’s Word today demands action from us. Not to do something God tells us just because we haven’t done it that we, or because my parents didn’t do, does not mean we should sit idly by and not act upon His Words, Matthew 7:24-27.

~ Danny Aragon, church of Christ, Kim CO

Rule five of Bible study is that Bible studies are for Christians to teach all the erring and unfaithful Christians and non-Christians the gospel of Christ, and never the other way around (Matt. 28.18-20; Mark 16.15-16; Luke 24.45-47; John 20.30-31; Matt.-Rev.). It seems that God set things up this way because one cannot teach what one does not know. For example, individuals who have been trained in and faithfully practice auto mechanics cannot teach medicine because they have not been trained in nor practice it. Conversely, individuals who have been trained in and faithfully practice medicine cannot teach auto mechanics because they have not been trained in nor practice it. Comparably, only those who have been taught and practice Christianity can teach it to any others (Acts 11.19-26).

Therein, when faithful Christians hold Bible studies with non-Christians and/or unfaithful Christians to teach or re-teach them the gospel of Christ, they are to do “all” the teaching (Acts 2.37-42; 8.1-4; 28.30-31). The examples in the aforementioned Scriptures are by no means exhaustive. God’s command for the New Testament church with her faithful Christians to do “all” the teaching is non-negotiable because of the salvation implications involved in it (Rom. 6.15-19; 1 Tim. 4.11-16). However, God’s command also forbids those Christians who are not ready (and may never be ready) from teaching others what they do not yet know or understand (1 Cor. 2.14-3.4; Heb. 4.11-14; James 3.1-5). Some examples would include new converts (Matt. 18.1-6) and foolish Christians (Gal. 3.1-9).

Consequently, God further forbids non-Christians and unfaithful Christians to teach the faithful Christians the Bible because of the two dangers involved in drawing them away from Christ. First, there is the danger of the self-condemnation the false non-Christian and unfaithful Christian teachers can bring on “themselves” resultant of the false teaching (Matt. 7.21-23; Gal. 1.6-10; 2 Pet. 2.1-3; 3.14-18). Second, there is the danger of the self-condemnation the hearers (of non-Christian and unfaithful Christian false teachers) can bring on “themselves” following after the false teaching (Acts 20.28; 1 Cor. 3.16-17; Gal. 5.4; 1 Tim. 1.3-7; 2 Tim. 4.1-5; 1 John 2.18-25; Rev. 2-3). So, when the teacher is doing the listening and the listener is doing the teaching, the Bible study has gone astray.

~ Tom Wright, church of Christ, Limon CO

“Blessed by the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”

(Ephesians 1:3)