

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.

For more information, please call Danny @ 719-980-0587 or Tom @ 719-964-8493.

You can also send an email to 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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Proper Motivation for EVANGELISM

I have truly been blessed by the Lord to be able to go around to different parts of the country and worship with the brethren. One thing I do when I visit is look around to see if the church has recently been involved in evangelism. It is so great to see that there are many Christians who want to be involved even when the church isn't, but they don't know where to start. Over the next few months I will use this venue to try to motivate and teach those who are interested in this great task. I am not sure where or when I received this information about evangelism and it has no name on it, but I wanted to share it with you anyway.

The first thing I want to say is that without motivation (the right motivation) evangelism will be confined to a classroom study and will probably not go much further than that. So, let's define what motivation is. In the book, "The Joy of Working," Denis Waitley says, "Motivation is an inner drive, an idea captured in the imagination." He also states that, "Men and women who are motivated push themselves forward, plow through the inevitable setbacks, heading ever onward to their dreams." What should be our motivation, that thing that pushes us forward in EVANGELISM? For us to answer to this question I believe we should look at what motivated Jesus.

First, He was motivated by compassion for lost souls. Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the crowd of lost souls (Matthew 9:35-36; 14:14 and 15:32). Such compassion motivated Him to do two things. First, to ask His disciples to pray that God might "send out laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37-38). Then, to do something about it Himself (that is, He selected and sent out His apostles (Matthew 10:1, 5-7). Do we ever find ourselves filled with compassion for the lost crowds around us? What are doing about it? If we can only have this same compassion for lost souls, we will not rest till we are doing something to save their souls!

Second, Jesus was motivated by His sense of purpose. His sense of purpose is seen in His conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4. While speaking with her, his disciples couldn't believe He was talking to her, much less what His motive might be (John 4:27). Jesus explained His motivation was "to do the will of Him who sent Me...to accomplish His work" (John 4:34). He stated this same purpose in life on many other occasions (John 5:30-36; 6:38; 17:4; 19:28-30). And what was the will of His Father? To save a dying world (John 3:16); to "seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). Do

we have this same "sense of purpose" driving us in our lives? To do the Father's will no matter what? Jesus taught that we should (Matthew 6:10,33). But people often have different driving PURPOSES for living. The "workaholics" make their jobs their purpose in life. Many make their families, friends or hobbies the reason for living. But we as children of God should be motivated by the same purpose Jesus had.

If there is something that is missing in most of the churches of Christ that I have visited or worshipped with over the past 30 years, it has been evangelism. I say that with the greatest concern in my heart for the church. Next month we will be looking at two or three more motivating factors that Jesus had while he was working in reaching lost souls.

~Danny Aragon, church of Christ, Kim CO

EVANGELISM - MINISTRY ACTIVITIES OF *The Unveiled Gospel*:

Last month, *The Unveiled Gospel* spent 4 days in Memphis, TN at the "Spiritual Sword Lectureship." The time spent there was refreshing as we had opportunity to promote *The Unveiled Gospel* and the work that we are doing. Many good contacts were made

November:

Starting this month, *The Unveiled Gospel* will be working temporarily with the Sioux City church of Christ in Sioux City, IA during the time they search for an evangelist.

The Unveiled Gospel is in contact with the Fremont church of Christ in Fremont, NE to do a weekend seminar in the near future.

The church of Christ in Fort Dodge, IA is currently in contact with *The Unveiled Gospel* to conduct a weekend seminar.

"Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."

(Romans 13:10)

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The Staff at *The Unveiled Gospel* is happy to offer:

1. Gospel Meetings – designed to encourage the brethren
2. Weekend Seminars – designed to teach participants how to evangelize
3. Door-knocking Campaigns – designed to canvass the local area in order to look for people who are looking for Christ
4. Fill-in preaching/teaching – designed to help congregations during times of preacher absence

To set-up one of these offers, please call Danny Aragon @ 719-980-0587 or Tom Wright @ 719-964-8493.

THE CRUSHABLE SPIRIT OF MAN

“Heaviness in the heart of man makes it stoop; but a good word makes it glad” Prov. 12:25. “A merry heart does good like medicine but a broken spirit dries up the bones” Prov. 17:22. “A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken” Prov. 15:13. “All the days of the afflicted are evil; but he that is of a merry heart has a continual feast” Prov. 15:15. “The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary” Isaiah 50:4.

The spirit of man is crushable. The spirit can be broken. Kind words encourage, lift up, energize, motivate, and generally make people glad. Criticism, mean remarks, constant complaining, and judging people’s motives dishearten, discourage, and crush the human spirit. God would have us fill our lives with encouraging and kind words. We bless others and our own lives when our speech is filled with kindness, affection, and noting people’s good traits.

Some of the greatest leaders for God suffered from the thoughtlessness, critical, and complaining spirits of those they tried to help. It was so serious it nearly destroyed their work for God. Moses, the meekest man, was nearly destroyed by the constant complaining of the people. The depression he suffered was from the people. Num. 11:14-15 “I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. And if you deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee!” Moses was so despondent over the constant whining he wanted God to kill him. There are limits to human endurance. The human spirit is crushable.

The miracle working, Apostle Paul suffered similarly. II Cor. 1:8 “For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life!” The mighty power of God does not erase the need of the “human spirit” to be nurtured by the kindness and affection of ones fellow man! Paul actually walked away from an “open door” from the Lord. II Cor. 2:12-13 “Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ’s gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord. I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.” Paul prayed for strength and comfort. God’s answer: “Great is my boldness of speech toward you...I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.” How? “For when we were in Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fighting, within were fears. Nevertheless God, that comforts those that are cast down comforted us **by the coming of Titus**” II Cor. 7:4-6. Paul was so comforted by this **man** Titus that he was able to continue his work for God! Sometimes we miss this part of Biblical teaching! It takes the encouragement of people to keep preachers going! God sent comfort to Paul by sending a man filled with good

news and encouragement. Paul further mentions: “And not by his coming only, but by the consolation wherewith he was comforted in you, when he told us your earnest desire, your mourning, your fervent mind toward me; so that I rejoiced the more”. The encouragement of the church to Titus encouraged Paul. When he heard, they were concerned about him and mourned for him, and obviously prayed earnestly for him, his spirit was refreshed. Wow! People encouraging people made the difference in the Gospel being preached! Paul stated in Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” There was a time he despaired of living, but because of the encouragement of people that God sent he was able to keep going.

Will you be used of God to encourage, excite, and lift up those whose spirits are crushed, or will you be used by Satan to whine, complain, criticize, and make judgments against others and contribute to the crushing of their spirit? In the Churches of Christ many churches lose their preachers every three years. We need to become those who heal broken spirits and not those who create them.

~ Richard Merrill, church of Christ, Security CO

Help Needed!!

The church of Christ in Sioux City, Iowa is looking for an evangelist to come and help them grow spiritually and numerically. This is a mission field in need of help! The congregation has some support, but more is needed to fully support an evangelist and his family. Sioux City is a metropolitan area of 100,000+ in population, with all the amenities that come with a large city. If you are interested in helping financially support the work or coming to Sioux City to evangelize please call Orvis @ 712-258-2206 or Nick @ 712-202-3806.

The church of Christ in Walsh, CO is looking for an evangelist to come and help them grow spiritually and numerically. This is a mission field in southeastern CO and the congregation can provide some support, but more is needed to fully support an evangelist and his family. Walsh is a community that hasn’t been evangelized in a long time, so the field is white. We are a lovely community that has many souls in need to help. If you are interested in learning more about the work please contact Kenton Dykes @ 719-688-1148.

“A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understand will acquire wise counsel.”

(Proverbs 1:5)

in which he found himself, but in his Savior into whom he was baptized (Galatians 3:27). The reason for his joy cannot be understood from a physical mindset. The physical circumstance might make anyone depressed, but Paul didn't focus on the physical circumstance. He chose to focus on the spiritual salvation that was his in Christ, His beloved Savior. His physical life was only a stepping stone to the spiritual rest waiting for him and he was sure that His Savior would rescue him from any demise.

We are like Paul in our relationship to our surroundings. Paul revealed to us that we are all sinners in need of a Savior (Romans 3:23). We are all held in prison by Satan's weapon, the weakness of flesh. Satan uses the weakness of our flesh to tempt us to focus on the circumstance, knowing there is no rest for those whose focus is on the physical aspect of life. Paul also revealed that in Christ we have been given opportunity to see past physical life and rest on the eternal promises from our God (Romans 6:23). We can allow Satan to steal our joy by focusing on the physical situations of life, or we can be like Paul and look past the physical imprisonment of flesh to focus on God's promises to make us free from the despair of the flesh and deliver us into the rest of spiritual focus and faith.

To find that joy that gave Paul the power to rejoice even while chained to guards, we must find happiness in God's faithfulness: "God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9). This world continues to disappoint us by making promises it cannot keep, but God's integrity assures us of the eternal joy that is found only through faith in the promises of life in His Son. His promises will always be fulfilled and we can be assured of our salvation because He "cannot lie" (Titus 1:2). Because of this faith His promise of eternal life brings rest to the heart, mind and soul of anyone who will remain faithful to His will (Revelation 2:10).

Are you happy in your situation? You are if you are in Christ. He has been God's plan for happiness for eternity: "This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him" (Ephesians 3:11-12). He died to transport us out of this physical world and into His eternal kingdom. That is enough to bring our hearts and minds the complete joyfulness God wants His children to share. He can only bring joy to you if you will focus on His wondrous realm of which we long for and not the negative surroundings of the world in which we are mere sojourners. The joy that is found in Christ is not the condition of being in Christ, it is the result. Christ died and was raised to bring this joy to anyone that will die to self and follow Him. Find His joy in life.

~ Cub Orcutt, church of Christ, Trinidad CO

THIRTY SUGGESTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDY – SUGGESTION EIGHT

Suggestion eight for Bible study is that when a Bible study is set up, both parties should harmoniously establish an appointed time for it to start (and end if so desired) as soon as possible (Acts 16.19-34). Details aside, Paul and Silas were once imprisoned in Philippi for preaching the gospel of Christ. Circumstances ultimately permitted them to soon set up a study with the jailer and his household resulting in them being baptized. However, when Judas committed suicide right away because of his remorse over betraying Jesus, he denied himself all opportunities to set up Bible studies with anybody else (Acts 1.15-26). Therein, when evangelistic Christians busy themselves with trying to start Bible studies as soon as possible after they set them up, the actuality is that more souls might be saved.

In a positive light about fifteen years ago, a Christian evangelist from the local church of Christ was out knocking doors in the neighborhood on a Wednesday afternoon. During that afternoon, he met a man who said he had been looking for Christ for a very long time (Matt. 7.7-8). After visiting with each other for a few minutes, the evangelist set up a Bible study with the man, and they agreed to begin it that very evening after Wednesday night Bible study. Even though the evangelist was a bit late for the Bible study as he had been held up after Bible class, he still showed up at the man's house to begin their study right away. After a month of weekly Bible studies, the man (and eventually his family) decided to become a Christian. Therefore, the lesson becomes "the sooner, the better".

Equally in a negative light about twenty years ago, the same evangelist had opportunity to set up a Bible study with a long-time friend but never set the time for it to begin. As precious time continued to pass, the friend started getting sick, and then the time arrived for him enter the hospital with absolutely zero hope of ever coming out alive. When the evangelist heard about his friend's condition, he called him (from out of state) to set up a time for a preacher to come to the hospital right away to begin the Bible study with him. Agreeably, when the preacher got to the hospital, the evangelist's friend had died losing his soul and his life. Hence, the application becomes "better late than never" means nothing to the evangelist then or now. Just to set the record straight, I am the evangelist.

Tom Wright, church of Christ, Limon CO

Joy vs. Happiness

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

Paul's heart was free to rejoice even though his body was locked up in prison. He had every reason to be depressed but he chose to be joyful because his happiness was not based on the circumstance

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