

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.*

To subscribe, send email to [dapreacher238@hotmail.com](mailto:dapreacher238@hotmail.com) or [didymusbooks@juno.com](mailto: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 AWESOME Work of the Church

These past few months I have been writing of the most awesome thing on earth, **THE CHURCH!!** I have discussed in the past couple of month's about "God's High Estimation and God's Awesome Descriptions of the Church." This month I want us to take a look at what God has given the church to do while she remains on earth until He comes.

When we read or hear the word WORK, it seems to have such a negative feel to it. Lord knows over the years I have tried to avoid this four-letter word as much as I can. However, when the Lord tells the church what to do our attitude should be that of gratefulness and joy knowing that we can do what God expects. That makes us be/come the church which He purchased with His own blood. So what is the "work" church? As I looked into Scripture I found that God has always wanted His people (Israel and the church) to do three things.

First, He wants us to **PROCLAIM** His message. For the Israelites, He wanted them to teach His message to their children, Deuteronomy 6:6-8. The principle there is a great principle for parents today. We need parents to teach their children the commandments of the Lord. Nevertheless, today God is calling His church to proclaim His message to all people, Mark 16:15-16. When the church is silent with His message to mankind, the church losses one of its greatest identifying marks. The most terrifying and saddest thing is when one suffers and dies in this world never hearing the message of grace, mercy, and love. The church must take on the work of **PROCLAMATION!**

Second, God wants us to **PROVIDE** for the needy. The Israelites were told to open their hand to their needy brethren, Deuteronomy 15:7-11. This principle is carried over in the New Testament for the church in passages like, Acts 4:32-27; Acts 11:27-30 and Romans 15:25-26. We are also told that we should help the widow who are widows indeed, 1 Timothy 5:3-10. In Timothy, we are told that children are to help their parents out and also their own family. In 1 Timothy 5:8, the person who does not help/provide for his household "has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." I am not saying we should neglect unbelievers, but Paul states in Galatians 6:10, to do good to "especially the household of the faith." He also says in Romans 9:10, that we are to "give preference to one another in honor." So if our brother/sister in Christ is in need we should do all we can to be benevolent to them.

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The last work I want to discuss, is the work of **PREPARING!!** As the church continues to do all that the Lord has given it to do, we must never forget the job of preparing the “saints for works of service,” Ephesians 4:12. When one looks at how the local church is organized, what it she called to do in worship, and the purpose of the gifts that Christ gave His church, I believe it is fair to say that the primary work of the local church is **PREPARATION**. When Christians are not prepared to do the work that Christ has given them to do, then the church doesn’t grow and doesn’t help the needy.

I am sure you can think of many great works the church is supposed to be involved in. But, it seems to me that these are at the core of all the great works that the Lord has given to His church. As we do these great works, we can rest assured that God will be glorified and honored in all we do!!

~Danny Aragon, church of Christ, Kim CO

### *SUPPORTERS OF The Unveiled Gospel:*

- Calhan church of Christ, 9 5<sup>th</sup> St, P.O. Box 293, Calhan CO 80808 (719-541-2191)
- Kim church of Christ, 530 Hwy 160, P.O. Box 121, Kim CO 81049 (719-980-0587)
- Limon church of Christ, 330 N Ave, P.O. Box 391, Limon CO 80828 (719-964-8493)
- Sioux City church of Christ, 2111 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Sioux City IA 51103 (712-255-1313)
- Walsh church of Christ, 646 Missouri, Walsh CO 81090 (719-688-1148)

### *INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS OF The Unveiled Gospel:*

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- Ray & Rita Martinez, La Junta CO
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- Orvis & Connie Trobaugh, Sioux City IA
- Bob & Tina Watkins, Kim CO
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### *EVANGELISM - MINISTRY ACTIVITIES OF The Unveiled Gospel:*

Last month, *The Unveiled Gospel* spent 4 days conducting a Gospel Meeting in Sioux City, IA. During which we had attendance from four other congregations within an hour to an hour and a half away. It was also very well attended by the membership and local community of Sioux City. We had new guests every evening, had the opportunity to visit and encourage all in attendance as well as some local members. There were many contacts made during this Gospel Meeting and we ask for your prayers as we continue to work with Sioux City church of Christ as well as the others which contacts which were made.

October:

16-19 – *The Unveiled Gospel* will be attending the “Spiritual Sword Lectureship” @ the Getwell church of Christ in Memphis, TN.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘But the righteous man shall live by faith.’”

(Romans 1:16-17)

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.

## ***THIRTY SUGGESTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDY – SUGGESTION SEVEN***

Suggestion seven for Bible study is that whenever a Bible study is set up, it is preferable to begin it immediately or it can even begin later as long as it begins. For instance, Jesus once told some of His disciples to follow Him so He could teach them how to become fishers of men instead of fishers of fish (Mark 1.16-20). When the disciples heard Him, they “immediately” quit what they were doing (fishing for fish) and followed after Him. In context, the word “immediately” carries with it the thought that the disciples forthwith or at once followed Jesus without letting anything interfere with them doing exactly that. As such, this approximate 3+ year Bible study Jesus conducted with His disciples clearly started “immediately” because it helped prepare them for their future apostolic ministries.

Opposite the Bible study between Jesus and His disciples, God (in the divine being of the Holy Spirit) set up a Bible study between the apostle Peter and a Roman named Cornelius (Acts 10.1-48). Since Cornelius and Peter were in different places when they found out (in different ways from God) a Bible study was to take place between them, it was not possible for the study to begin immediately. This is because Peter had to travel to where Cornelius was before the Bible study could take place. However, when they finally did meet each other, Peter then taught Cornelius and his household the gospel of Christ that resulted in their becoming Christians. Hence, even though the Bible study was not able to start when God set it up, it did begin at a later time fully acceptable to God’s will for it.

Consequently, while it is preferable for a Bible study to begin immediately, the fact of the matter is that it is not always possible for whatever reason(s). Therein, God understands and allows for this as shown in the differing conditions between Christ and His disciples vs. Peter and Cornelius. Conversely, God is not as understanding or allowing if a Bible study never begins once it is agreed to by a non-Christian or unfaithful Christian in need of it for salvation’s sake (Ezek. 33.7-9; Acts 20.25-27). Christ was given all authority in heaven and on earth,

and is head over all things pertaining to His church (Matt. 28.18-20; Eph. 1.22-23). Accordingly, He uses that authority to command her Christians to go to lost persons to set up and begin Bible studies (preferably immediately or later if need be).

~ Tom Wright, church of Christ, Limon CO

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### ***WATCH YOUR TONGUE!***

Come on, why would we ever want to watch our tongue? What is it going to do that is worth watching? The tongue does not perform magic tricks, does it? It cannot sink a three-point jump shot, or even kick a fifty-yard field goal. There is simply no entertainment value in watching our tongue. Yet it is wise advice, because our tongue can get us into really hot water and cut others deeply. The saying, of course, is not to be taken literally, but means we should be careful what we say, and how we say it.

Scriptures found in the book of Proverbs provide numerous examples of how we can get ourselves in trouble through the use of reckless words. The New Testament Epistle of James also spares no space dealing with the problem of foolish speech that we are all guilty of from time to time. We may not intend to offend anyone, but regardless, rash, and perhaps sarcastic words, spoken in the heat of the moment do precisely that. James writes, “*Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to wrath*” (James 1:21), meaning think about what you say before you say it, and that is always the wise way to go. It is so much better to stay silent than to open mouth and insert foot. And James does not stop there.

In Chapter 3 he emphasizes the danger of loose tongues. In the context, the warning is especially for teachers, but it applies to each and every conversation in which we are involved. James compares the tongue to the bit in a horse’s mouth and the rudder on a ship, both of which is extremely small, but can control giant objects and animals. Words that come spewing out of our mouth can spread like a forest fire and the damage cannot be undone. The tongue, while a small member of the body, causes great harm when we speak without thinking about the consequences. Yet, we are all guilty of speaking off the cuff from time to time, and we rarely know what the outcome might be. None of us will ever be able to perfectly control all we say but we need to think about how our words can affect others. Practice the golden rule and much less damage will occur. Our aim should be to bless God and our brethren rather than allowing our words to praise God and curse man.

This wise warning applies not only to verbal conversations, but perhaps even more so to the written word. If our words do not build up, then they tear down. There is a time

to admonish others, but even then we need to choose our words carefully. So watch your tongue! It is well worth the time and effort. It will likely pay great dividends for all concerned. Be truthful and kind in all we say and do, and we will outshine the rumors, gossip, and lies all around us.

~ Terry Smalling, church of Christ, La Junta 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.

# Abraham, the Friend of God

James 2:21-24

## ABRAHAM WAS GOD'S FRIEND BECAUSE OF HIS:



### PROMPT OBEDIENCE

- Genesis 12:4
- Genesis 22:1-12
- James 2:21-22

### DESIRE FOR PEACE

- Genesis 13:7-9
- Matthew 5:9
- Romans 12:18

### GENEROSITY

- Genesis 14:18-24
- Genesis 23:9-16

### GREAT FAITH

- Hebrews 11:8-10
- Hebrews 11:17-19
- Romans 4: 19-21

### STRONG DEVOTION

- Genesis 12:7-8
- Genesis 13:3-4, 18
- Proverbs 18:24

### GREAT HOSPITALITY

- Genesis 18:1-8
- Hebrews 13:1-2
- Romans 12:13

### CONCERN FOR OTHERS

- Genesis 18:23-32
- Romans 1;14-16
- Philippians 2:3-5

**WE, TOO, CAN BE GOD'S FRIEND!**

Barnes' Bible Charts

## ARTICLE NAME CHANGE

During the past 20+ years, I have conducted many one-on-one and group Bible studies. The only fact I can recall about the greater majority of them is being fairly “consistent” in how I conducted those studies from start to finish. That consistency was made possible from my creating a personal list of rules (named **THIRTY RULES OF BIBLE STUDY**) for me to learn and follow when I began doing the studies. These rules were developed from all of the new and recurring situations I encountered from other peoples’ problems during Bible studies with them in my earlier years as an evangelist. Therein, every rule was carefully thought out and developed only after continuous prayer and relevant Bible study. Similarly, it seemed extremely remote I would ever share them with anyone else.

Now is one of those times I need to make a change since I am now sharing the rules with others. Because I have no Biblical authority to bind these personal rules as rules upon others, I am changing the name of my article from **THIRTY RULES OF BIBLE STUDY** to **THIRTY SUGGESTIONS FOR BIBLE STUDY**. I apologize to anyone who might have been confused as to whether these were real Bible rules or not. So, I want to assure everyone that they are my own personal rules even though they are based upon what the Bible teaches. For instance, in my article last month, I inferred that three times of trying to convince Christians to become evangelistic is sufficient. If after three times they do not respond, then it is doubtless time to try with other Christians interested in responding.

This “suggestion” is not without Biblical examples. From the Old Testament, the Lord called out to young Samuel three times who in turn thought it was Eli calling out to him (1 Sam. 3.1-9). After the third call, Eli then realized and told Samuel that it was actually God calling him into what would ultimately become a combination judicial and prophetic ministry. Yet in the New Testament, God showed the apostle Peter an object three times (Acts 10.16) before he could understand he was being sent to evangelize Cornelius (Acts 10). While both of these foreshortened accounts are greatly lacking in detail, the point is three times (miraculous or not) were enough for God to call these two inspired men to do His bidding. Thus, if three times is enough for God, it should be enough for you and me.

Tom Wright, church of Christ, Limon CO