

UPLOOK



UPDATE

educating
equipping
encouraging

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“...I WILL LOOK UP.” (PS. 5:3)

Careful! The Sword is Sharp!

Farmers and fishermen work for results, and so should we. We can never *cause* results to happen, but we should seek to be effective in our work, and *expect* results. We won't always see them in this life, but “*we shall reap if we do not lose heart*” (Gal 6:9).

Not long ago, a lady told me this story. She saw a neighbor taking her evening walk and felt constrained to join her. So she ran out and asked if she could accompany her. “Of course,” the neighbor replied.

The sun was setting. As the last light faded, the neighbor said, “You know, I really love the dark.”

Before she could catch herself, like some word-association game run amok, the Christian immediately quoted, “*This is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness more than light, because their deeds were evil.*”

Deafening silence ensued. How foolish could I be, the Christian thought. She tried several times to restart the conversation, **but nothing worked.** They trudged in stony silence until the woman, without a parting word, hurried up her driveway and into her house.

The Christian told me she agonized about what to do. She felt she couldn't face the woman and didn't want to discount God's

Word. Some months went by. Then she noticed a moving van in the woman's driveway. When they pulled away, it seemed to be **the end of the story.**

“But,” said the Christian, “just the other evening, I received a phone call.” When she said “Hello?” after a moment of silence, she heard her former neighbor's voice:

“This is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness more than light, because their deeds were evil.” Then, with choking voice, the woman continued, “I could never get away from those words. I just called to tell you...I've been saved.”

God doesn't bless because we do it right, but because **He knows how to use our ineptitude** to accomplish His work. That's why it's so thrilling to be “*workers together with Him*” (2 Cor 6:1).

During this holiday time, be looking for opportunities to “*to speak a word in season*” (Isa 50:4) to those weary from living without your Savior.

Be encouraged!

J A B E N I C H O L S O N



UPLOOK
MINISTRIES

A SITE TO BEHOLD (...AND USE)

Helping you navigate through our website to get the most out of your experience

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HAPPY NEW GEAR!

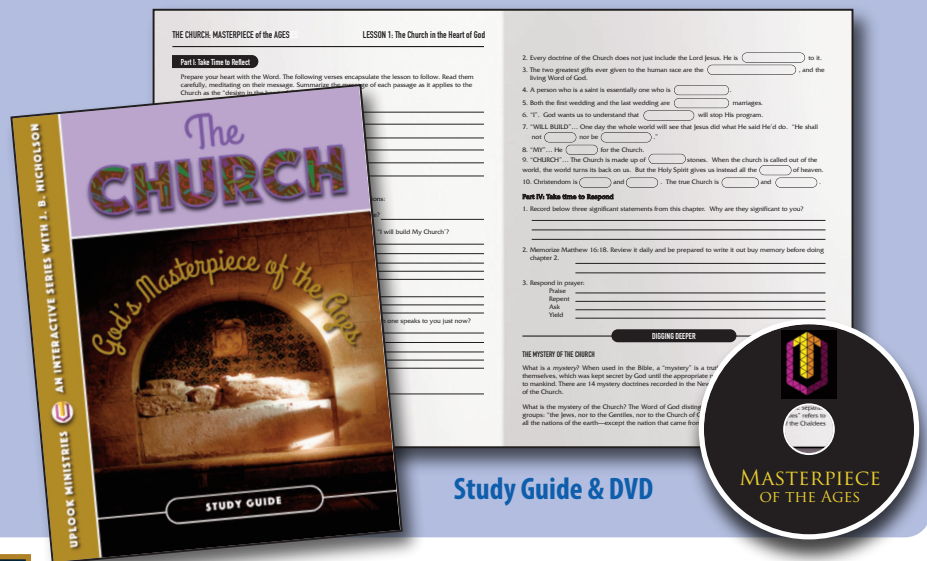
No, that's not a typo. We meant to write "gear" instead of "year." Why? As we enter a new year, many are wanting to make changes in their lives —to shift gears, so to speak— in order to grow in healthy ways.

Have you ever stopped to think of how changes could be made in our local churches to make them healthier, closer to what the Lord intends for them to be?

With 2017 soon upon us, this is the perfect time to introduce an exciting project we've been working on at Uplook Ministries. "The Church: Masterpiece of the Ages" is a resource that includes a series of ten videos by Bible teacher, Jabe Nicholson. Some of the topics covered include: *The Church in the Heart of God*; *The Church in the Acts*; *Unity and Diversity in the Church*; *Spiritual Gifts*; *Baptism and the Lord's Supper*; *Church Fellowship and Discipline* and many other vital truths that promote spiritual health and growth in your local church.

Also included in this package is a wonderful study guide to help you dig into the Word yourself — before, during, and after watching the videos. Jabe's notes are also provided in this study guide to enrich your study. This resource is ideal for individual use and small group studies, but especially for local churches to work through (and grow through) together. Be sure to jot down your questions as Jabe is willing to Skype into your meeting at the conclusion of your series for a Question/Answer session.

The mission of Uplook Ministries is simple: "The whole gospel for the whole world. The whole truth for the whole Church." As Uplook wants to make this resource available to the whole Church, there is no set cost to purchase it. So, for a donation of any amount, Uplook Ministries will be happy to get "The Church: Masterpiece of the Ages" into your hands, trusting that the Lord will then get these truths into your hearts, igniting a desire to see the Lord glorified in His Church.



Study Guide & DVD

MASTERPIECE OF THE AGES



While a new year offers the hope of better things, it can also mean the reality of harder things. You may well feel

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake...

inadequate in the face of new circumstances or some new task the Lord assigns you in 2017. Should this happen, remember: You're in good company! Anyone God has ever used in a significant way has been in that very position. Watch this 5-minute episode to discover a surprising truth that will both encourage you and equip you to carry on in a God-glorifying way.

...For when I am weak, then am I strong. (2 Cor. 12:10)



FROM THE BOARD

We thank the Lord for all those who have joined in our vision of getting people to “look up” since re-launching two months ago. To see the number of people sharing our daily devotions and weekly videos on Facebook has only helped to spread the blessing of “beholding Christ.” We are greatly encouraged to see how the Lord is already using our digital resources. From some of our viewers:

I really enjoyed listening to this sermon on Hebrews 6... your explanation in light of the context makes [so] much sense. Thanks! —BR (in response to one of our audio sermons)

This was so moving! The Word of God so resonates with my heart and brings me comfort! May I continue to love His Word!! This was explained exceedingly well!!! —BB (in response to “The Potter’s Hands”)

What a wonder and precious website! —FB A God-given resource. —FP

Great short message that packs a punch! ... I look forward to utilizing the site, especially in the study and preparation for teaching adult Sunday School. —JK

Note to friends: Please make use of this wonderful resource and study tool! The Lord is good... let us lift up the name of The Lord Jesus Christ together! —LK

[We] work with inmates in the local detention center and have a real burden to disciple those who get saved while there or show interest in spiritual matters. This just might be a great tool for us to employ! Keep up the good work! —HV

So excited about this amazing new resource!! —AG Powerful truths...so encouraging. —GMd

So thankful to the Lord for this wonderful site and pray many are blessed and encouraged by it. —CC

So excited to see how the Lord will magnify His Holy Name through the ministry of this group. So thankful for these brothers laboring for Him in these efforts! Be sure to participate in the ministry! —JSB

Thankful for these men and their labor to help all of God's people and see Christ lifted up that people may find in Him all they will ever need!! —SD

The ladies' Bible study group that meets in our home will be studying the book of Ephesians and this clip [intro video] focuses on our thoughts concerning the glory of God. How encouraging! It is also good to see our dear brother Jabe! —HR What an incredible resource! Thank you and God bless! —AH

Excited about the new vision (and look) of Uplook Ministries! Can't wait to start using their resources to make "much of Christ" in our current generation! —CF

Blessed beyond measure at the timing of this... I needed this as a gentle reminder of God's will in my life and the redirecting that's going on... —TG Just the thing for today. —JO

What a blessing to have re-connected with Uplook Ministries. —P V-K

I am so pleased to hear about the revival of Uplook Ministries... My prayer is that you will continue to reach out to those who need and will accept God's Word. May God bless and establish you. —EW

Less than five minutes, and it will probably be the best video you watch all day! —SS

Keep them coming! Excellent. —JC (in response to Scripture Snapshot: Genesis)

It is such a great joy to have you back doing the Lord's work... Praise the Lord that you are back! —MS

FYI:

DON'T MISS OUT!

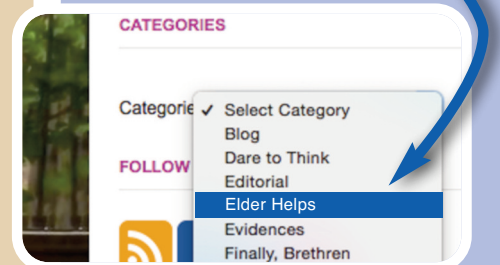
How can Uplook's daily devotionals be accessed by those who are *not* on Facebook? Here are two ways:

1. • Go to www.uplook.org
 - Click on the **Granary** tab
 - Look in the top right corner
2. Click on the Facebook icon on our website. Our Facebook page is public for all to enjoy. You can watch our weekly videos too!

HERE'S AN IDEA!

For Church Leaders:

Shepherds should be men of vision: “Where there is no vision the people perish...” (Prov. 29:18). What long-range goals do you have for your assembly? What steps are you presently taking in that direction? We have an entire section on our website (www.uplook.org) called **Elder Helps**, a wealth of practical articles to help you and your fellow-elders see those goals realized with the Spirit's enabling power. Check it out!



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Contact us (see Contact Information on the front page) and request either a hard copy in the mail or a pdf version by email. Be sure to “Subscribe” to our YouTube channel as well!



Scan to visit our website →

our featured resource from...

"sow bountifully...reap bountifully" (2 Cor. 9:6).



THE GRANARY

From some Seed Sowers:

"We use the gospel cards often; we left one with our waitress at a local restaurant today, in fact. We like them for their size and ease of use. I've yet to have someone turn one down. I think they're useful tools in our 'gospel toolbox'." —**Eric M.**

"We are encouraging the people in our church to give these out to teachers, neighbors, coaches, etc. along with other witnessing tools. The message on the CD is so clear, so we'd like to spread it around. Thanks much!" —**Martha K.**

"What a blessing to have this business card that leads people to our Great Lord and Savior!!! As a believer, I understand we are saved by grace for our sins by Christ's blood shed on the cross at Calvary. Thank you for sharing with others. You have a great website!!! Praise God!!! Thank-you!" —**Rebecca J.**

"My husband and I listened to your CD on the way home from a short trip to Mackinac Island, and were absolutely thrilled with the gospel message so precisely preached. Seems like today, so many people get so many other 'things' involved when sharing the gospel." —**Marsha M.**

Think of what might be accomplished in the one minute it takes to pass one of these out! In the words of Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays: "I have just a minute, only sixty seconds in it. Forced upon me, can't refuse it; didn't seek it, didn't choose it, but it's up to me to use it. I must suffer if I lose it, give account if I abuse it. Just a tiny little minute, **but eternity is in it.**"

THE PERFECT GIFT (CD & CARD)



Looking for that perfect Christmas gift for your unbelieving family member or friend? Why not try this? In this 30-minute talk by Jabe, he describes the ultimate gift that's ideal for every person on earth. It's an unbreakable, never-wear-out, one-size-fits-all kind of gift. In a day when people make God out to be a cosmic killjoy, this talk will help listeners discover that God is actually a giver... and that He offers a Gift that will keep on giving for all of eternity.

Get this and many other helpful gospel resources by clicking on **Granary** at:

www.uplook.org

THE LORD IS NEAR!

"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, And a scepter shall rise from Israel" (Num. 24:17). The large gap the involuntary prophet saw between himself and the coming One was a span of time. But the more significant gap was the distance between Balaam's heart and the heart of the God he claimed to serve. Such a rift is the inevitable result of sin and every one of us has experienced it: "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God" (Isa. 59:2). So because it was impossible for us to draw near to Him, the star came forth from Jacob and drew near to us. Near enough that we could nail Him to a cross.

If we have trusted in Christ, He is always with us (Mt. 28:20). As we go through each day, do we purposefully enjoy His presence? No matter what the trial, we can have peace knowing that He is near to the broken-hearted (Ps. 34:18), to those who fear Him (Ps. 85:9), and to those who call upon Him (Ps. 145:18). And if you haven't yet trusted Christ, a more eager prophet would say, "Seek the Lord while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near" (Isa. 55:6). — **Jamie Martin**