

UPLook



UPDATE

educating
equipping
encouraging

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A visit to the doctor due to an ailment usually begins with questions...

How did this start? How long has it persisted? Doctors probe our recent past to construct a diagnosis. Then they may prescribe medicine, surgery, or lifestyle changes (like giving up your beloved Twinkies)—hoping to bring an end to the malady.

Many churches in the West show signs of ailing. Loss of appetite for the Word can indicate deeper problems (1 Pet 2:1-3). Is spiritual exercise expended after godliness (1 Tim 4:7-8) or for superficial things? And what about our energy level? Are we living in the “*exceeding greatness of His power*” (Eph 1:19)?

Recently I had the privilege of speaking about the church to a roomful of young disciples, students at the university nearby. It was 6:30 a.m. and they were eager to learn. As I drew my talk to its conclusion, I posed five questions **to help them diagnose the heart of Christ’s desire for His beloved church:**

1. Should the church be Christ-oriented or people-oriented? It’s true that those who follow Christ will care deeply about people, both saved and those needing to be saved. But the church’s orientation is to gather to Christ: to live Christ (Phil 1:21), to know Christ (1 Cor 2:2), to preach Christ (1 Cor 1:23), and to serve Christ (Col 3:24) in such a way as to glorify Christ (Eph 3:21)—revealing God’s beautiful character for all who live in our communities to see.

2. Should the church be lifestyle-based or event-based? Fulfilling my responsibility by “going to church” for an hour is unknown in Scripture. We *are* the church and, although we gather with others for worship and encouragement, we continue to live out church life at all times. Everything becomes holy service. The kitchen table is an altar, the family room a sanctuary, our work clothes the holy vestments of a priest (see Zech 14:20).

3. Should its structure and function be determined by the Word of God or man’s traditions? The answer should go without saying. Not that we might do some things in a certain way not prescribed in Scripture, but that God’s way must always take precedence over human opinion. We must especially beware of “*teaching as doctrines the commandments of men*” (Mt 15:9). Remember: the Lord knows best! And it’s always the right time to do the right thing.

4. Should the main objective be spiritual growth or numerical growth? Again, it’s the Lord’s desire that we reach “every creature.” But focusing primarily on numerical growth can lead to compromise, leaving churches “a mile wide and an inch deep.” The Lord linked evangelism with discipleship for a very good reason, and we should too.

5. Should our gathering be more like a rescue mission or a country club? If our unspoken objective is to be comfortable more than comforters, evangelicals rather than evangelists, and self-satisfied more than Christ-occupied, we will settle down into spiritual mediocrity and stale ineffectiveness. Note the warning—and encouragement—of 1 Corinthians 3:9-17. What an honor to be workers together with Christ.

Just *look* at Him!

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

“...I WILL LOOK UP.” (PS. 5:3)

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NEW RESOURCES



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We are excited to announce our newly revamped, 100% gospel-focused website! There you will find gospel videos, audio messages, online gospel brochures, gospel FAQ's, and an offer for a free booklet, "God's Answers to Man's Questions." Visit:

www.goodnewsnow.info

I remember reading [Uplook] magazine in my twenties and now I watch the videos. In whatever format, Uplook is a blessing and benefit to believers everywhere. —GT

Uplook has been such an encouragement to me. I have experienced hope, peace, and joy as I learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ! —JP

It's relevant, true to the Word, and highly informational. — RH

The preeminence and superiority of the Person and finished Work of Christ is in the forefront. Carry on by grace through faith! —DK

Good sound teaching. For those who value the Bible, give it a good look. — MS

SAMPLE DAILY DEVOTIONAL:



Will and Peter Pell once were preaching at a conference in Hamilton, ON. At lunch, a woman asked if they would visit her unsaved brother in the hospital. When they arrived, the nurse told them the man had been in a coma for some time, a detail the sister had not given them! But they went into the room anyway. What should they do? "Let's sing," said Bill. And the brothers began, "I am so glad that our Father in heaven, tells of His love in the Book He has given..." The man began to stir. They sang the second stanza and the man began to mumble. They bent down to hear. "Maybe He loved me when a boy in Sunday School, but He couldn't love me now, after what I've done." So they sang the next verse: "Though I forget Him and wander away, Still He doth love me wherever I stray; Back to His dear, loving arms would I flee, When I remember that Jesus loves me." The man came out of the coma that day and put his trust in the God of such persistent love. **To get our daily devotionals sent directly to your email, go to:**

www.uplook.org/Resources/Christ All and In All Meditations/Subscribe to Emails

FEATURED GOSPEL VIDEO: SOUL HUNGRY?



SOUL HUNGRY: A helpful explanation why Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, can *alone* satisfy your deepest needs. Powerful! Clear! (5.5 mins).

A STRATEGY CALLED LOVE: How to deal with interpersonal conflicts. Here is the most powerful strategy: "Love never fails" (6.5 mins).

FEATURED TEACHING VIDEO: A STRATEGY CALLED LOVE



NEW STUDIO



For more pictures, see the video on our YouTube channel!



www.uplook.tv

The Lord has kindly provided the resources so that we could convert Jabe's annex on his property into a video recording studio. This will allow Jabe to conveniently record teaching sessions for Uplook's online show, *What's the Word?* The Lord also provided a capable team of men to draw up the plans and do the work.



After two weeks of intensive working long days and into the nights, the project was complete! Jabe writes, "Our own brothers, like Aholiab and Bezalel, 'gifted artisan[s] in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work' (Ex 36:2), have finished their task with excellence for the glory of God. Rejoice with us in this new facility to be used for the furtherance of His work!"



We're encouraged by the responses of God's people to our weekly videos. Here are some we received to one of our recent videos called **"POWER OVER EVIL"**:



"Margaret and I enjoyed this so much. Such a clear, full, engaging message packed into 8 minutes. And such a light against the dark backdrop of evil in the world and in our hearts." — B. Stapley

Why is there so much evil in the world! Such a great message for scary times. — Becky RD

This is a must see/listen to! — M.S. McMillin

So happy for this ministry. We are greatly blessed each time we get a Bible Study lesson. — TC Davis

"Such a clear explanation of where evil and sin came from..." — YouTube Comment



IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING...

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ALBANY GOSPEL CHAPEL

SAME OLD MESSAGE. BRAND NEW IDEA.

WE'D BE HAPPY TO DO THE SAME FOR YOU!

"The consciences of the older brethren were pricked!"

UPLook was recently approached by Mark Daniels, a brother in Albany, GA, to see if we could help create a gospel DVD including four clear gospel videos by Jabe Nicholson from our online show, *What's the Word?* We were only too happy to help! Together, we worked with Mark to design something that suited their needs (see the DVD label, bottom right). In the last year, or so, they have handed out 2000 of these gospel DVDs!

UPLook would be happy to help any other local church looking to do something similar. Visit www.uplook.org and click on our YouTube icon to see our "menu" of over **80 videos** that we could use to make a special DVD for either gospel or teaching purposes.

Here's an encouraging note sent to us from Mark commenting on this experience: "Several years ago, the 'Good News on the Move' team came to Albany Gospel Chapel. The young men on this team were being discipled

in the field of the world. They went door to door giving the gospel wherever they went. The consciences of the older brethren were pricked! A few of us began to meet before work on Wednesday mornings to pray. It was decided that we would reach out to our community with the gospel.

To begin with, we organized by mapping out areas we would visit. Then we ordered gospel resources (including a custom-made gospel DVD from Uplook) to place in door knob hangers. We met to pray, set basic guidelines, and practice our introductions when the door opened.



Then we stepped out on faith...and we were excited! We were blessed! We came to the realization that knocking on a door and giving the gospel was not that difficult.

Albany Gospel Chapel has sent out, supported, and prayed for missionaries and ministries far and near over the years. From my perspective though, it was when we corporately went out together that the assembly became complete. In laboring together, we began sharing, confessing, and praying with one another. We were growing in faith, enabling us to teach and demonstrate to others firsthand how to share the gospel.

As a result, there was greater unity and love within our assembly. This experience has empowered us in practical and purposeful ways to witness for Christ throughout our day, wherever we are, and in whatever we are doing. Saved sinners sharing the Savior with lost sinners! Let us not neglect the Great Commission! And let us start where we are, for our mission field is where we live!

KEEP LOOKING UP!

Do we want to **RADIATE CHRIST** to a dark and dying world?

Like Ezra, let us "**set our hearts** to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances" (Ezr 7:10). The Word of God, properly studied, implemented, and shared, is essential to accomplishing His work.

Next, let us "**set our mind** on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Col 3:2). There's lots to discourage us in this world. But believers have the privilege of looking up and letting the goodness of glory sweeten our lives and testimonies here below.

Above all, let us "**set our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb 12:2). No matter what the trial, focusing on His beauty and perfect example will sustain us and help us to walk in His steps.

Let us cultivate the moment-by-moment practice of setting our hearts on the Word, our minds on things above, and our eyes on Jesus. — **Jamie Martin**

