

# *The Gospel Herald*

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“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS  
by  
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*“And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood,  
which they had made for the purpose.”*

*(Nehemiah 8: 4)*

*To the best of my limited knowledge, the word “pulpit” is only recorded in the Holy Writ on the one occasion, as indicated above. The word pulpit is defined as a “wood tower” or “elevated platform” from which the priest or scribe would read the law, commandments, statutes and testimonies of the Lord our God. It would appear that this place of ministering was designed for the reason, possibly to elevate the speaker to a level where all could see and hear to whomever was speaking/reading.*

*It had been expressed by an historical Baptist preacher from the mid-1800s to young preachers and novices in the ministry, “if you ever enter into the pulpit of God’s house without the feeling of an awesome responsibility and without fear and trembling, then you might as well sit down. It is not a light thing to attempt to stand before God’s people and attempt to minister from the scriptures the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus.*

*I believe that my experience is rather typical of those called into the gospel ministry. There is a part of me that fears that pulpit and the feeling of inadequacy and incompetence can often be overwhelming. Yet, at the same time, there is that dominating inspiration of God’s precious Spirit who reminds this mortal man “woe unto me if I preach not the gospel!”*

*I am persuaded that the God-called preacher, gifted by grace alone, has something to say from that old, old book that records the facts of a loving Saviour who has come to seek and to save poor and needy sinners.*

*Yet, in God's determined purpose, he shall close the mouth of his messenger as he pleases. I recall going through some very difficult emotional stress a number of years ago, where I walked a season in a spiritual desert, overwhelmed with mental anguish for weeks. I was unable to stand before God's people and attempt to utter one word of edification. Thanks be unto our God that my dear and precious brother, who labored with me in the pastoral care, was there (by God's divine providence) to minister and fill the gap. None of us mortal beings are infallible as his ministers and how soon we can be quieted, and our tongues held still.*

*When in God's timing and determined purpose he releases the bondage of the troubled mind and heart, and gives, once again, the sweet liberty to proclaim the glories of the everlasting gospel, it is a cool, refreshing breeze of divinity that has blown our way. In my 34 years of having a supernatural desire to speak the things that the God of the scriptures has done in this sinner's life, which have caused a maintained hope and ongoing faith to believe that Jesus Christ is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE, and that NO MAN cometh to the Father but by HIM, my inner being has not been given a choice as to whether or not I am to proclaim this good news; I can do nothing less than speak the matchless grace and sovereign mercies of an Almighty God, who alone is UNLIMITED in ALL his pleasure.*

*Brethren, may we be careful to take these precious gifts of ministry and with fear and trembling, beseeching our Almighty Father to use us a trumpets of truth, to blast the glorious good news of the gospel of grace, to the edification of the Church of Jesus Christ; that this glorious message would further equip the saints for the work of the ministry as witnesses of our Saviour's loving grace and redeeming mercies. May our God give us authority, liberty, and clarity of mind to preach and teach those whom God shall cause to give us an ear. "For they which be of God heareth God's word, and then that be not of God heareth not the word of God." May the God of all grace overwhelm our natural minds with his Spirit when we are called to that pulpit occasion, that we would be carried away in Spirit to utter the things that be of God. For this is my prayer.*

*Respectfully submitted*