



Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool  
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## Viewpoints

*Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.*

### Caught by Unexpected Change - December 18, 2015

*Technology changes. Policies are recalibrated. But God's Word is constant.*

[Online Version & Archive](#)

The last thing I want to do while preaching a sermon is teach something false. Truth, integrity and accuracy are the bedrock values I desire for paving the way to delivery God's word with precision.

And what if I do say something wrong? Then, as scripture teaches, I want to confess it. And change it. And conform to the truth. As I'm doing right now, because in last Sunday's sermon, I taught something false about the drivers of UPS delivery trucks.

As an illustration, I explained how UPS has a policy for its drivers to make right turns only (which in practice turns out to be about 90% of the time). I was using this rule as an example of how we, the children of God, also want to make the "right" turns in our travels through life.

The next day one of our members called me. He was so intrigued with the concept of this illustration that he stopped the neighborhood UPS driver to ask him about it, and found out that UPS has dropped its "right turn only" policy. This member was concerned on my behalf, that everything I say in the sermon—even the illustrations used to model Biblical truth—are accurate.

Sure enough, when I re-examined my sources I discovered they were published in 2014. And even when I did further sleuthing, I could not find current verification. So apparently the policy was altered, and since my sources were outdated, I was caught by unexpected change.

But even as my illustration went lame from unexpected change, it still delivers a powerful example of how God's Word is different. A Fortune 500 company like UPS enacted the "right turn only" policy based on the best data it had at the time. But, apparently, when additional data indicated a different outcome, UPS changed that policy. Obviously, human technology is constantly changing and policies need to be recalibrated. But this is where God's Word is uniquely different, and miraculously superior.

Cultures changed over the centuries. Nations came and nations went. Yet the promises of God to send his one and only Son to be the virgin-born Messiah who saves us from sin, death and hell are untouched by any and all the changes that rule over families and communities. Over countries and nations. And over the policies of Fortune 500 companies.

God lovingly factors in all changes, and powerfully conforms them to the purpose of his will—something so far beyond our twelve ounces of grey matter that he simply summarizes in the phrase, “when the time had fully come...”

**“When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).**

Curious how I used the UPS policy as an illustration in the sermon?

[Click here and then on “Sermon Video & Audio Files Library” for the “Prepare the Way” sermon of 12/13/2015.](#)



*Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)*

[“19 Secrets of UPS Drivers”](#) @ mentalfloss.com – Google dates this as Dec 11, 2015 but some comments go back a year ago. Good thing Google didn’t write the Bible!

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*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike*

