

Time to change when a planet becomes your sun

It is hard to imagine, but my wife and I just celebrated our 15th anniversary.

We did something special this year and took a little trip to Florida. Just the two of us, it was incredible. Understand I am writing this before we have actually left, so I am proclaiming what it will be — It was incredible!

No, it was better than incredible. It was indescribable. Anyway, I look forward to taking an early morning walk on the beach as the sunrises or a late evening one as the sun sets.

That got me thinking about a recent article I read. It tied in so well with last week's column about your youniverse that I thought it would be good to share it. It was written by Ron Hutchcraft (April 2007) who has a radio outreach program called "A Word With You."

Just imagine sitting on the beach as you read this today. Do you hear the sound of the waves crashing and



steve rains

● moments from calvary

feel the sand between your toes? Here we go:

"You are probably a believer in heliocentricity, right?"

"Now that is not a new denomination. It just means that the sun is the center of our solar system and all the planets, including this little tennis ball we live on, are revolving around the sun.

"We do sound a little confused about this sometimes, like when we say, 'Isn't that a beautiful sunset?'"

"Actually, the sun isn't going anywhere; we're the ones who are moving. But who wants to go for a romantic walk to watch a beautiful

a few years ago, and they found that 21 percent of Americans surveyed thought the sun orbited around the earth, and 7 percent said they didn't know.

"So, there's some confusion about the fact that the planets revolve around the sun, not the sun around the planets. That's not just a scientific issue. It's a spiritual issue, too. Because too many of us have forgotten what is supposed to be the 'sun' at the center of our life. We've put one of the 'planets' of our life at the center, and in reality, everything is revolving around it. The Bible would call that a word we wouldn't

like to accept — it's an idol.

"Someone listening today is living in violation of the First Commandment, as recorded in the Word of God in Exodus 20:3. Heading the fundamental Law of God, the Ten Commandments, is this imperative: 'You shall have no other gods before Me.'

"Our instinctive response is: 'Well, excuse me. I don't have any little images that I pray to in my closet.'

"That's blatant, overt idolatry. But idolatry is far more than that. That's why, for example, greed is called idolatry in Colossians 3:5.

"In real terms, your 'God' isn't what you say you believe in, it's whatever you revolve your life around, what you think about most of the time, what you spend your time and money on, whatever is your bottom line in your life-choices.

"Obviously, we are to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart

and with all your soul and with all your strength' (Deuteronomy 6:5). He is the sun in the universe of every life. Everyone and everything else is just a planet that is supposed to revolve around Him, and our beliefs agree with that. It's our everyday behavior that's the problem.

"It could be that at this moment in your life, you're actually revolving around one of the planets in your life, and you're treating Jesus like He should revolve around it too.

"Maybe the real 'sun' in your personal universe is your children. They're supposed to be very important to you, but not the center of your life. Maybe your marriage or your strong desire to be married is what you've put at the center. Your business or your career could become an idol, a relationship, your stuff, your plans, even your ministry can become an idol; you've started serving the work instead of serving the Lord.

"If the sun were ever to leave its

place at the center of our solar system, it would mess up everything else. When you put what's supposed to be a 'planet' in your life at the center, nothing works right.

"And it could be that Jesus is not really the sun around which everything else in your life is revolving right now and the result is going to be chaos, confusion, and collapse."

So, who is first in your life? That is a tough question isn't it?

I want to encourage you to examine your life and make sure that the Lord of All is the center of it all in your life. When He is there, you can have a peace that surpasses understanding and a strength that endures past tomorrow.

Have a fantastic weekend, and go to church!

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

Red Cross plans disaster training

The American Red Cross plans two disaster-training courses to prepare volunteers to help with national and local disasters.

"Yes, we always need more disaster volunteers," said Roberta Bretz, coordinating volunteer in Goodland. "The most recent was when tornadoes hit Cheyenne County."

Local disasters include fires, sheltering winter travelers and tornadoes, she said.

"The courses will help prepare people for national and local disasters," Bretz said.

The first course will be on how to set up and maintain Red Cross shelters on Thursday and Friday, May 10-11, from 5 to 8 p.m. (Mountain

Time) at the Thomas County Red Cross Chapter, 350 S. Range, Colby. The second will be Saturday, May 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mountain Time) at Colby on client case-work.

That class teaches people how to work with families that have been affected by disaster to determine their needs and provide help.

Before a person can take the courses, they need to take the Introduction to Disaster course online at www.midwaykansas.redcross.org, print off the last page and bring it with them to class.

Classes are open but pre-enrollment is required. Call 890-2011 or (785) 462-7161 in Colby.

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Worship warms the heart

Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor: Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor
Sunday: Kid's Church: 10:30 am
Morning Service: 10:30 am
Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.
Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.
Small Group Ministries meets through out the week.
www.calvarygospel.net

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal
307 W. 13th • 890-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation:
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am
Spanish Mass:
Sunday: 12:30 pm

Sonrise Christian Church
Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Charles E. Kerr, Jr.
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Team Puppeteers: 6 pm
Wednesday:
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm
Jets, 4th grade and under: 3:30 - 4:30

Word of Life Foursquare Church
10th & Clark • 899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration and Kids' Church: 10:30 am
Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!
Age 3 through grade 6, 6:30 p.m. (during school year)

Pleasant Home Church
Serving the rural community for over 100 years
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Charlie Busch
694-2242
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Michael Estep
Fifth & Broadway
890-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Morning Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO (719) 346-7984
Sacrament Meeting: 10 am
Sunday School: 11:15 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 am

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

United Methodist Church Brewster:
Pastor: Dorine Chambers
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Rev. Ted Amos
Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

Kanorado United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Bob Willis
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First United Methodist Church
1116 Sherman 899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Janet Hernandez
Saturday: Worship: 5:30 pm
Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 am
Worship: 10:30 am
Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 Simple Supper "Free will Offering 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

Goodland Bible Church
109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor: Chad DeJong
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 am
Morning Worship: 10:45 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

First Baptist Church
Pastor: Travis Blake
Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th 890-3450
Sunday: Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 am (Child care provided)
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m.
Wheatridge Center

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
13th & Center
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969
Priest: Father Hal Lycett
Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m. Thursday
Morning Prayer: 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun. For emergencies 890-6969

Harvest Evangelical Free Church
104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918
Pastor: Brian Fugleberg
Sunday: Worship: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Youth group meets at 7 p.m. at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.

Seventh Day Adventist Church
1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Jim Martin
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
13th & Sherman • 890-6161
Sunday: Christian eduction/fellowship: 10:15 a.m.
Worship Service: 9 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Church of Christ
401 Caldwell
890-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

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208 W. 2nd

Internet tonight! Call 899-2338.