

Why Have This Gospel Meeting?

Introduction:

- A. Acts 13:42-44– Wouldn't it be great if the whole city would come to hear God's word next week during our Gospel Meeting?
- B. Since our meeting is rapidly approaching, I thought it might be good to talk a little today about why we still have such meetings.

I. The Purpose of a Gospel Meeting is NOT:

A. To Raise Funds or to Promote Some Institution.

- 1. We won't be begging for donations from outsiders.
- 2. We will not be promoting some human institution such as a Bible school or a benevolent society.
- 3. The church obtains its funds by free-will offerings on the first day of the week – 1 Cor.16:2.

B. To Arouse Emotions or to Create Excitement.

- 1. There will be no highly sensational or emotional type of preaching – no speaking in tongues or thrilling personal testimonials.
- 2. Christianity is basically a religion which appeals to the intellect, not the emotions – Jn.6:45.

C. To Entertain or to Feast.

- 1. We will have no professional singers, musicians or clowns.
- 2. Neither will we serve meals or refreshments – Rom.14:17; 1 Cor.11:34.
- 3. Some congregations spend more time and money sharing refreshments than they do the word.

D. To Amuse or to Amaze.

- 1. We will use no tricks or gimmicks to amuse or amaze people.
 - a. Such as a weight lifting preacher or a magician preacher.
- 2. We have no fantastic feats or claims of miraculous healing.
- 3. There will be no personal counseling workshops for people.

E. Not to Embarrass or to Scare.

- 1. No one will be walking around the audience asking people if they are saved.
- 2. No one will be asked to raise their hand, stand up, or otherwise be identified before the group.
- 3. We will do all things decently and in order – 1 Cor.14:33,40.

II. The Purpose of a Gospel Meeting IS:

A. To Teach the Word of God.

- 1. It is a teaching effort sponsored by the church – 1 Tim.3:15.
- 2. Anytime the Word of God is preached, it will accomplish much good – Isa.55:10,11; Heb.4:12.

B. To Worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

- 1. Our Creator seeks true worshipers – Jn.4:23,24.
- 2. We will joyfully sing praises to His name – Psa.63:5; Heb.13:15.

C. To Exalt the Lord, Jesus Christ.

- 1. We have a wonderful Savior who is the Sovereign Lord and King of all – 1 Tim.6:14-16.

D. To Lead Lost Souls to Christ.

- 1. Many are in sin and don't know it – they need to hear the Gospel message, which will convict people of sin – Jn.16:8.
- 2. By the Word, we are taught to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts – Titus 2:11,12.

E. To Edify and Encourage the Saints.

- 1. We all need to be re-energized from time to time.
- 2. Our Meeting will build us up, encourage, and fortify us – Acts 20:32.

- F. **To Provide a Spiritual Feast for All to Enjoy.**
 - 1. Our meeting will provide spiritual nourishment for our souls.
 - 2. Let us rejoice in it – Psa.119:111.
- G. **To Provide an Opportunity for Us to Work Together as a Congregation.**
 - 1. Whether this meeting is a success or a failure will depend on how well we work together.
- H. **To Provide Us With a Little Change.**
 - 1. A Gospel Meeting provides us with a change from what we usually do – a break from our normal routine.
 - 2. We will have a different speaker, audience, format for our services, etc...

III. What Can We Do to Make Our Meeting Successful?

- A. **Attend Every Service.**
 - 1. First of all, I need to determine to attend every service myself – cf.Heb.10:25.
 - 2. Everyone needs strength and encouragement.
- B. **Invite Friends and Acquaintances.**
 - 1. Use this meeting as an opportunity to be a soul winner – 2 Tim.2:2; Prov.11:30.
- C. **Bring Someone If Possible.**
 - 1. Bring a relative, friend or neighbor.
 - 2. More have probably been converted in this way than any other.
- D. **Welcome All Visitors.**
 - 1. Make them feel welcome.
 - 2. Show hospitality – Rom.12:13.
 - 3. Demonstrate a genuine interest – Phil.2:4.
- E. **Join Heartily in the Singing.**
 - 1. Sing enthusiastically – Psa.100:1.
 - 2. Sing heartily to the Lord – Eph.5:19; Col.3:16.
- F. **Pay Attention.**
 - 1. We will get out of it what we put into it.
 - a. Jesus often said, "*He that hath an ear, let him hear.*"
 - 1) In other words, "Listen carefully; pay attention; strive to understand; for these things are vitally important."
- G. **Come Early If Possible.**
 - 1. Those who run in at the very last minute, or a few minutes late, are not showing enthusiasm toward the kingdom of God.
 - 2. Let us demonstrate zeal and enthusiasm.
 - 3. Be consumed with zeal for the Lord – Jn.2:17.
 - a. David mentioned this of himself as well – Psa.69:9.
- H. **Pray for the Meeting.**
 - 1. Pray for the visiting preacher, for the song leaders, for the lost to come to obedience, for the saints – cf.Eph.6:18-20.
 - 2. Pray that the church might be benefitted from the Meeting.
 - 3. Pray that the Word of God might have free course in the hearts of all – 2 Thess.3:1.

Conclusion:

- A. Let all of us work as though the success of the Meeting depended on us, because it does.
- B. The Meeting will be successful and pleasing to God if all of us do our part.