

THE VALUE OF GOSPEL MEETINGS

Most congregations plan and conduct one or two gospel meetings during the year. There are those who question the value of such efforts. In the minds of some they are a waste of time. How many times has it been said, “We don’t have gospel meetings like we use to?”

It could be that some gospel meetings have become nothing more than a tradition. We have them because we have always had them. Unless we understand the value and importance of such efforts, we will not have successful gospel meetings. Why are gospel meetings valuable to the work of the local congregation? Gospel Meetings are valuable in the . .

PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD

We must take advantage of the opportunities to make known the Will of God. The Word must be proclaimed. “Preach the word . . . “ (2 Timothy 4:2). “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God . . . “ (1 Peter 4:11). We must preach the Word and gospel meetings provide such an opportunity.

PROMOTING OF THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

We have the obligation to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10). Our main business in the church is to be in the “soul-saving” business. Gospel Meetings remind us of the great responsibility we have toward those (1) Outside of Christ that needs salvation (Romans 1:16-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) and (2) In Christ, members of the church who have become unfaithful, that need to be restored (James 5:19-20).

PROTECTING OF THE WELFARE OF THE CONGREGATION

God desires for His people to be united (John 17:20-21; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-6; Psalms 133:1). Feuding, fighting and fussing among the brethren is fatal to the spiritual welfare of any congregation. Gospel meetings encourage brethren to think about others and to work together. Gospel meetings edify us and strengthen us as we hear the Word proclaimed and labor together (1 Corinthians 15:58).

PREVENTING OF WANDERING FROM THE LORD

It is possible for the child of God to become unfaithful to the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:12; Galatians 5:4, 6:1, 7-9; Hebrews 3:12; James 5:19-20; 2 Peter 2:20-22). As we grow “in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18), we are helping ourselves to remain faithful to the Lord. In 2 Peter 1:5-11 we learn that as we must “add” and “abound” in the “Christian graces.” Why? “. . . to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Peter 1:10). Gospel meetings help to prevent unfaithfulness.

PROVING OF OUR WELL-BEING

Gospel meetings help us as Christians to see where we are spiritually. It helps us to checkup on our (1) Commitment; (2) Conviction, (3) Courage, and (4) Compassion. In Gospel meetings we demonstrate what is really important to us. Do we pray for our gospel meetings (Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)? Do we eagerly participate in the promoting of such efforts (1 Corinthians 3:9)? When the gospel meeting begins, will we be present for every service (Hebrews 10:24-25)? Gospel meetings are a test of our faith and faithfulness.

PREPARING FOR THAT WONDERFUL PLACE CALLED HEAVEN

It is God’s desire that we go to Heaven (1 Timothy 2:4). Heaven is a prepared place for those who have prepared themselves (John 14:1-3; Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23). Gospel meetings afford us the opportunity to think even more about Heaven (Colossians 3:1-3). As we think about Heaven and hearing the Gospel of Christ being faithfully proclaimed, we are motivated to make sure we are preparing for Heaven according to God’s plan. God’s plan is the only way (John 14:6; Hebrews 5:8-9; John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32-33; Mark 16:16; Revelation 2:10). Preparing for Heaven is what this life is all about (Philippians 1:21; Ecclesiastes 12:13).

How thankful we should be for Gospel meetings where the Truth is faithfully proclaimed and upheld. Gospel meetings are valuable!

Jerry Joseph from www.bibletag.net

SUGGESTIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL GOSPEL MEETING

This week we shall be laboring together in a gospel meeting. We always look forward to opportunities of being together and this occasion is certainly no exception. It is always a pleasure to enjoy fellowship and engage in Bible study. Since the event that will bring us together this time is a Gospel Meeting, here are a few suggestions that will help make the meeting a success.

Pray for the meeting. Since Gospel Meetings focus on reaching the lost and strengthening the saved, surely we want to pray for the success of such. Remember, “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (Jas. 5:16). Pray, then, for great attendance and great responses!

Invite others to attend. While the selected sermons are designed to encourage and instruct the saved, they are also very evangelistic in nature. With this and the great commission of Christ in mind, I encourage you to invite all the friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, and even strangers that you possibly can. God’s Word has the power to save the lost (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12), but we must get the lost in hearing distance of that word.

Determine to be at every service. One of the greatest hindrances to any Gospel Meeting is the lack of attendance by local members. If we love God, respect His Word, care for other Christians, and long to save the lost, then we will desire and determine to not miss a single service. The attitude we display toward such congregational efforts influences those around us – for good or for bad. Resolve to be a stepping-stone, not a stumbling block.

While there are a number of other ways to help make our meeting a success, these are a few of the most important. Much good will come out of our labors together, and we look forward to seeing the results.

Preston Silcox adapted from *Beacon*

ANNIVERSARY

Charles and Lois Tullis, 04-09.

ILL

Sunday: Chris Edwards, Janice Carter (PM). Kyle Greer broke his arm on March 31. Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon, Kim Clark and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is at the Del Mar Gardens, Room 229. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Cindy Nelson was in western Kansas helping her parents. The Scott's were in Coffeerville, KS. Tom Tucker was in Eldon, MO for a relative's funeral.

THANKS

Our thanks to all those who helped to prepare our building and grounds for our Gospel Meeting.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, April 9 to correspond with our Gospel Meeting.

LADIES CLASS LUNCHEON

The ladies will provide lunch after the class on April 12. Brother Smith will be teaching the class so both men and women are invited to class and the lunch following.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 61; Sunday PM, 44; Wednesday PM, 46.

<p align="center">Spring Gospel Meeting Toney Smith of Rendon, TX April 9-13, 2006</p>

Those To Serve

April 9, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Charles Tullis
PRESIDE..... John Carter
ASSIST..... John James
ASSIST..... David Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Gary Cole

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Ken Greer
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Carter

WEDNESDAY 5th

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
INVITATION Toney Smith

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher
Phone: (913) 764-2325
E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

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