

## **A Successful Gospel Meeting**

What purpose do we have in mind when we conduct a gospel meeting? Reminding ourselves of the legitimate goals of a gospel meeting and refocusing our aims on those goals should help us have a more effective meeting. A meeting with which God is pleased is a successful meeting. When a meeting is conducted, with any other purpose in view, the purpose is wrong and God is displeased. Consider our purpose:

### **Worship and Praise God**

God wants Christians to worship Him, *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him,”* John 4:23. It is man, the creature’s responsibility to worship the Creator. More than a duty, it is an exalted privilege and honor to worship God.

Worship is an expression of love, gratitude, and praise. It is reverence paid to God which comes from the heart of faith and adoration. God, as Sovereign of the universe deserves our worship and can and does rightly demand it. *“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,”* Psa. 29:2.

### **Preach the Gospel of Christ**

Paul said, *“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek,”* Rom. 1:16. In the next verse, Rom. 1:17, he teaches that the righteousness of God — God’s plan for making men righteous — is revealed in the gospel. To the Corinthians, he said, *“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain,”* I Cor. 15:1-2. Surely God’s power unto salvation, his plan for making men righteous, that by which we are saved, must be preached in order for God to be pleased.

Any preaching is inferior that does not give attention to the divine injunction to *“preach the word.”* A sermon may be treated with homiletical accuracy, but unless it is “Bible based” and “Christ-centered” it is a fatal thrust. The manner of delivery is secondary to the “matter” delivered.

### **We Are Seeking to Save The Lost**

Jesus said to His disciples, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned,”* Mark 16:15-16. One of the primary purposes we have in gospel meetings is to win the lost. All men are offered pardon and eternal life on the terms of salvation taught by Christ. Jesus is *“the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him,”* Heb. 5:9.

We also have a responsibility to restore erring brethren back to the Lord. *“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall hide a multitude of sins,”* Jas. 5:19-20. We have an obligation to lovingly exhort an erring brother to come back to the Lord, Gal. 6:1.

## Edify The Saved

The church grows as individual Christians mature. Believing the same things, working toward the same goals, loving one another; these are the ingredients for success. *“Speaking the truth,”* Eph. 4:15, in love is an essential component in the maturing process of Christians. As Paul departed from the elders of the church in Ephesus, he said, *“And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified,”* Acts 20:32. By the word of God they would grow spiritually, become stronger and more stable.

## Seek to Enlighten Truth Seekers

In the past few decades we have experienced a marvelous explosion of knowledge in the area of physical science. But it hasn't answered the longing with the heart of man. Science is no savior. There are those who are searching for the truth. They see the uncertainties and insecurities of the world situation and realize that man is incapable of saving himself or of bringing lasting peace to the world. Science is related only to the physical senses and does not purport to tell the purpose and meaning of life. The bible is the study of the Creator and science the study of the created. We should never be guilty of confusing the two. We must not worship the creature, Rom. 1:21-25. Only the truth can make men free, John 8:32.

We have a responsibility to make sure the world knows the word of God. As God instructed Ezekiel as a watchman for the house of Israel, He said, *“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word of my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die, and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul,”* Ezek. 3:17-19. Paul said he was *“pure from the blood of all men, For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God,”* Acts 20:26.

## Why You Should Attend This Gospel Meeting

Too often, when one hears of a gospel meeting, his interest is not sparked and he has an indifferent feeling about such matters. He is not impressed with the importance and urgency of his laying everything aside, forcing himself away from his favorite past-time and going to the meeting. There are some good and valid reasons why you should do so. Here they are:

**1. Because of the value of your soul.** Your soul is a unique thing. No man can kill it, Matt. 10:28. Jesus taught that one soul is more valuable than the whole world, Mark 8:36. He then asked, *“What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* Would he give an evening watching television? Would he give a gallon or two of gasoline? Would he give up a life lived and pattered after the Savior?

**2. Because you are going to die.** *“It is appointed unto man once to die...,”* Heb. 9:27. Since the beginning of time men have been dying, even to this present generation. God holds the secret to perpetual life, not man. Few live to be over 100 years old, and not many of those live past that age. Death is both certain and uncertain. It is certain to happen, but it is uncertain when that moment will come. The gospel meeting is to help you prepare for that moment.

**3. Because of the coming judgment.** *“It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment,”* Heb. 9:27. It doesn't say “and after this—purgatory” - or “a second chance!” Or “someone can be baptized by proxy!” In searching the Bible from cover to cover one can find nothing to look forward to between death and the judgment. Men scoff at the idea of a judgment. Yet no one has offered a sensible, logical reason from any source in or out of the Bible, as to why the teaching of a universal judgment is a farce and should not be believed.

**4. This may be your last opportunity!** This is not a mere scare tactic but an attempt to get you to take time out of your busy schedule and make you think about something you have been avoiding. A fact of life is death. With every beat of your heart and with every tick of the clock your opportunity to hear and obey the gospel grows that much shorter. Being prepared for death and the judgment gives this life meaning, contentment, and happiness that transcends our earthly problems and predicaments. Any attempt that does not include the gospel, is futile. Wasted opportunities can never be recalled and there is no unending supply. Have you given this matter serious consideration?

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