

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

### A. Why do we have Gospel Meetings?

1. Do we need them? Do they accomplish good?

a. Compare our three day meetings to those of the past (Victoria, TX – one year meeting in the 1940's)

### B. At the very least, a gospel meeting is a Bible study.

1. Do you see value in Bible study? I hope so...
2. Don't we give worthwhile endeavors our best effort?

[IF you see value in gaining knowledge – developing faith – that will enable you serve God acceptably & to worship Him properly;

IF you see value in being with the people of God, then you are seeing the value of a gospel meeting.

**And** as with other valuable endeavors we should give our best effort to support it.]

### I. WHY DO WE NOT HAVE GOSPEL MEETINGS?

A. Not to raise funds (1 Cor 16:1-2; 2 Cor 9:1; 1 Cor 9:6-9).

B. Not to promote to selfish interests (Phil 2:4).

1. The image of the local church (Rev 3:1).

2. The preacher (1 Cor 3:5).

- a. To give preachers another source of income?
- b. To promote schools, journals, books or benevolent organizations?

C. **Not simply to** stir up the emotions.

1. The gospel appeals to man's intellect (Jn 6:45).
2. If emotions are stirred, it is the result of "understanding".

D. **Not to** entertain or to share meals (1 Cor 11:22).

1. We don't use gimmicks to urge attendance, we will not be serving refreshments; the audience will evaluate each lesson on its own merit.

E. **Not to** hold up a human tradition (Mark 7:8-9).

1. Gospel preaching is a tradition dating back to the apostles. (Jn 4:37-38; Rom 1:15; 1 Cor 3:5-8).

[**The** only difference I see between gospel preachers & their work then & now is that the preachers didn't wait for invitations—they just went; but they went with a single purpose in mind: to inform & enlighten w/ the truth of God.

**Now** whenever a gospel meeting has other objectives, then it is a tradition that should be corrected or eliminated.]

## II. WHY DO WE HAVE GOSPEL MEETINGS?

A. **To enable** the gospel to do its work!

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**Acts 26:18** – to open their eyes, in order **to turn them** from darkness to light, & from the power of Satan to God, **that they may receive** forgiveness of sins & an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

**Isa 55:11** – My word...shall not return to Me void, but **it shall accomplish what I please**, & it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

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B. To provide an occasion to worship God!

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**Heb 13:14-16** – For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. 15 Therefore by Him **let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name (**Psa 63:1-5**).

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C. To exalt the Son of God!

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**1 Peter 2:2-4** – as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 **Coming to Him** as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God & precious,

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1. Will our actions this week indicate our coming to Him or rejecting Him?

D. To enable the Holy Spirit!

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**John 16:8** – And when He has come, **He will convict** [convince] the world of **sin**, & of **righteousness** [of Christ], & of **judgment** [to come]:

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1. Gospel preaching meets these criteria:

- a. Man's condition apart from Christ.
- b. Character, purpose, position of Christ.
- c. The day of reckoning & how to prepare (**Jn 8:24; Lk 13:3; Mk 16:16**).

E. To strengthen saints!

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**Acts 20:32** – So now, brethren, I commend you to God & to **the word of His grace, which is able to build you up** & give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

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1. What is important enough to make you to miss a meal?
2. Nothing, only a lack of hunger will make you miss a meal.

3. A failure to attend the services of a gospel meeting is a sign that we lack a hungering & thirsting for truth (Matt 5:6).

[What is important enough to prevent you from building up & feeding your spirit & encouraging your spiritual family?]

### III. WHAT WILL MAKE A GOSPEL MEETING SUCCESSFUL?

- A. A determination to be at every service!
- B. Invite or bring someone (Pro 11:30b).
- C. Welcome guests & especially non-members.
- D. Join enthusiastically in the singing.
- E. Demonstrate genuine interest in the lessons.
- F. Come early & stay late if possible.
- G. Pray for God's will to be accomplished.

## CLOSING

A. What would Jesus do next week if He lived in San Angelo?

1. He would be with His disciples wouldn't He?
2. Where do you think we ought to be?