

A Successful Gospel Meeting

Psalm 122:1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Psalm 122:1** – “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the LORD.’”
- B. We are quickly approaching the time of our Gospel Meeting.
 - 1. Dates:
 - 2. Speaker:
 - 3. Song Leader:
- C. The success of any gospel meeting depends primarily upon the members of the congregation and whether or not they want the meeting to be successful.
- D. To obtain the greatest amount of success requires the best effort of every member. Every age group can do something to strengthen this meeting effort.
- E. This gospel meeting effort will place each one of us one gospel meeting closer to eternity.
 - 1. For some it may be their first gospel meeting ever.
 - 2. For others, it may be their last.

F. Bro. Gordon Smith . . . “Gospel Meetings” . . . Bulletin Digest

In the past few years, I have heard the following statement a number of times: “Gospel meetings are not as effective as they once were.” If this is true, why is it true? The gospel is still God’s power to save (Romans 1:16). Revivals provide an excellent atmosphere for the gospel to be preached. The message of our Savior will still prick the hearts of honest, truth-seeking people. Then what is the problem? The problem is that the brethren are not as enthusiastic for the Lord as they once were.

Years ago, it was common to have multiplicity of restorations and a goodly number of baptisms in a meeting. This was because the brethren were inviting delinquent Christians and those outside the kingdom to hear the gospel. There was excitement in the air. Brethren were praying for the lost. Far too many of us have lost that enthusiasm. We are so busy making money, enjoying our wide-screen televisions that we don’t have much time for religion.

There is no way to reach the lost in a gospel meeting if the lost are not there. There is no way for the brethren to be revived if they are too busy to attend. The problem is that far too many of us have our priorities completely out of whack! If the gospel is preached in love, if the brethren are enthusiastic, if a special effort has been made to encourage the lost to be in attendance, there is no way for a gospel meeting to be anything other than a huge success . . .”

- G. It is a given that we all need to work diligently on behalf of this upcoming effort. Every member of our lovely congregation needs to:

1. Examine his/her heart and prepare for the meeting.
2. Invite and bring others to the meeting that they might be taught the truth.
3. Try to restore the unfaithful.
4. Pray for the success of the meeting.
5. Attend every service of this year’s meeting.

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO EXAMINE HIS/HER HEART AND PREPARE FOR THE MEETING

- A. The heart of man is the beginning place of every great undertaking. **Proverbs 4:23** – “your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”
- B. That we might help others to clean their hearts, we must first be sure that our hearts are clean. Therefore, each member must cleanse his/her heart of everything that would hinder the success of the meeting.
- C. Each member should be glad that the meeting has been planned and should be thankful to be able to attend every service. **Psalm 122:1** – “I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the LORD.’”
1. Let us go into the house of the Lord for every one of the services.
 2. Let us go into the house of the Lord to worship and praise Him.
 3. Let us go into the house of the Lord to draw closer to God and our Savior.
 4. Let us go into the house of the Lord to introduce others to our saving Christ.
 5. Let us go into the house of the Lord in appreciation for the salvation that has been brought down to us.
 6. Let us go into the house of the Lord and show the world that God still is , , , And that He is in control of our lives.
 7. Let us go into the house of the Lord for the revival of our spirits and the renewal of our faith and commitment to remain faithful in service to our God.
- D. Each member should want to learn more and should eagerly look forward to hearing each lesson.
1. **Matthew 5:6** – “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.”
 2. The power of God still lies where He placed it . . . in His Word . . . And that word will be preached for the duration of this meeting.
 3. Listen in view of eternity.
- E. No member of God’s family should allow the pleasures and love of the world to crowd God and His will out of his heart.
1. Satan will work on your schedule, not to get you to the meeting, but in order to prevent you from attending the meeting . . . Yes, he will.
 2. Don’t allow Satan and the world to be in charge of your appoint calendar with God.
 3. Homework can be completed earlier and the meeting attended.

- F. Each member should put the kingdom of God first and foremost and be willing to make sacrifices, if necessary, in order to attend each and every service.
Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
- G. Each member should seek God with his/her whole heart. **Matthew 22:37** – “... ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’”
- H. Therefore, the success of the meeting will be helped or hindered depending on the condition of our hearts.
1. Let us make sure that our hearts are right. **Psalms 119:2** – “Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!”
 2. When a member’s heart is right, he will work on behalf of the meeting.

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO INVITE OTHERS TO THE MEETING IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE TAUGHT THE TRUTH

- A. A gospel meeting offers a fine and expedient opportunity to interest someone in the gospel of Christ.
1. Convenient for them to attend initially without missing their regular religious duties and commitments.
 2. Encourage them along this line.
- B. A gospel meeting offers a fine opportunity to practice the Great Commission of **Matthew 28:19-20** – “**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”
- C. Each member should strive to bring at least one other person. **John 1:40-42** – “One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.
 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ).
 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, ‘You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas’ (which is translated, A Stone).”
- D. God will richly bless your every effort to save others. **Psalms 126:6** – “He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.”

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO TRY AND RESTORE THE UNFAITHFUL

A. In having become thus, their condition has become perilous . . . and their souls are lost. **2 Peter 2:20-22** – “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, **the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.**

For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit,’ and, ‘a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.’”

B. God has commanded us to restore the fallen. **Galatians 6:1** – “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

C. Select one or more that you know to be a fallen brother or sister, and make every effort to restore them during the upcoming gospel meeting. **Daniel 12:3** “Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.”

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO PRAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING

A. In order for this meeting to be successful, we must seek God’s help, and the avenue for doing that is through prayer.

1. **1 Peter 3:12** – “For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”
2. **Philippians 4:6** – “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
3. **James 5:16** – “. . . The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. “

B. God is with us and will help us if we will but ask Him.

C. Pray for:

1. The evangelist.
2. The song leader.
3. All who have special assigned duties and responsibilities.
4. All who will be attending the gospel meeting.
5. Pray that the lost may obey the gospel and be saved.
6. Pray that the church will be edified, revived, and strengthened.
7. Pray that God be glorified through this effort, and that His will be done.

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO ATTEND EVERY SERVICE OF THE MEETING

- A. The elders have authorized this gospel meeting.
1. They feel that it is a good work . . . and it is.
 2. They feel that it is a good opportunity for people to make life changes in view of eternity . . . and it is.
 3. They feel that the meeting can benefit the community . . . and it can.
 4. They feel that the meeting can benefit the congregation here . . . and it can.
 5. They feel that it is the privilege, as well as the duty of every member to attend . . . and it is.
 6. They feel that the visiting evangelist will preach the gospel of Christ . . . and he will.
 7. They feel that good can come out of this meeting . . . and it can.
 8. They feel that the Word of God has power to change the lives of those who hear it . . . and it can and will.
 9. They feel that this gospel meeting is a part of their obligation before God to “feed the church of God which Jesus purchased with His won blood” (Acts 20:28) . . . and it is.
 10. They feel that every member should heed their call to attend the meeting . . . And we should.
- B. Attending this meeting is a part of obeying those who have the rule over us.
- Hebrews 13:7** – “Obey those who rule over you , and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”
1. The elders are asking us to comply and attend this meeting.
 2. Obedience indicates that we will.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Brethren Be in prayer for
1. Be in prayer for the evangelist.
 2. Be in prayer for the song leader.
 3. Be in prayer for all who have assigned responsibilities.
 4. Be in prayer for that the lost may obey the gospel.
 5. Be in prayer for our erring brothers and sisters that they may repent and return to faithfulness.
 6. Be in prayer that God’s word may accomplish His will through this gospel meeting effort. God has a purpose in sending forth His word. **Isaiah 53:11** “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”
 7. Be in prayer that God may be glorified and His will be done through this effort.
 8. Be in prayer for the betterment of every soul that attends.
- B. Some in this very audience probably obeyed the gospel of Christ during a

gospel meeting.

1. Some of your precious loved ones may be in Heaven due in part to a gospel meeting effort.
 2. Some of your precious loved may be in Heaven due in part to this upcoming gospel meeting.
- C. A gospel meeting should be a challenge to every member of the congregation.
1. Good meetings do not “just happen.”
 2. The secret of a good meeting is plain hard work.
 3. If a meeting is not worth working for, is it really worth having?
- D. A gospel meeting can still be an effective work of the church if brethren will work effectively on its behalf. I
1. If you want the meeting to work for you and others . . . then work for it.
 2. Never underestimate the power of God in a gospel meeting!
- E. Brethren
1. This community needs to know Jesus Christ.
 2. This community needs to obey Jesus Christ.
 3. This community needs to know that sin is the greatest tragedy described in the Bible and known to mankind.
 4. This community needs to know that salvation (which only God can provide) is the greatest thing announced in the entire Bible.
 5. This community needs to know that God has a simple plan for their salvation . . . and in that plan:
 - a. **HEARING** the gospel destroys interest in sin.
 - b. **BELIEVING** the gospel destroys the pleasure of sin.
 - c. **REPENTANCE** destroys the practice of sin.
 - d. **CONFESSION** of Christ destroys allegiance to sin.
 - e. **BAPTISM** destroys the guilt of sin.
 1. “. . . Arise and be baptized, and wash away you sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” **Acts 22:16**
 2. “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” **Acts 2:38**
 6. Baptism puts one **into** Christ.
 - a. “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on** Christ.” **Galatians 3:27**
 - b. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” **2 Corinthians 5:17**
 - c. “. . . You have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.” **Colossians 3:9-10**
- F. **You are invited to become a Christian this very hour.**

