

OUR GOSPEL MEETING

Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. Our Gospel Meeting begins here on _____.
2. I want to emphasize the fact that this is OUR MEETING.
3. This, being our meeting, means EVERY MEMBER here is equally responsible, to the extent of his ability and opportunity, for its success.
4. We want to make this our best meeting from every standpoint.

I. WHY HAVE THIS GOSPEL MEETING?

1. Some time, effort, and money are required to have a gospel meeting, so we should have some good reasons for having it.
2. Some reasons first WHY we are NOT having this meeting:
 - (1) Not simply out of CUSTOM.
 1. Custom is not a reason for doing anything in religion.
 2. Jesus condemned custom for authority in religion -- Matt. 15:1 - 9.
 - (2) Not for ENTERTAINMENT -- Rom. 14:17.
 1. No effort will be put forth to put on a show.
 2. We will have no special music or anything of that nature.
 - (3) Not to create a SENSATION.
 1. It is not our purpose to bring in some showman who can speculate and theorize in such a way as to draw crowds or mere spectators.
 - (4) Not to advance some MAN'S THEORY.
 1. Conflicting theories and doctrines of men discredit true religion.
 2. We have none of our own, nor any other man's, to propagate.
 - (5) Not to build or maintain a DENOMINATION.
 1. The need of the day is not more sects and parties, but a return to New Testament Christianity -- I Pet. 4:11.
 - (6) Not to RAISE MONEY.
 1. Only on the Lord's Day -- I Cor. 16: 1- 2.
3. SOME REASONS FOR having this Gospel Meeting:
 - (1) To correct false ideas and misunderstandings.
 1. The position of the church of Christ will be set forth clearly and kindly in this meeting.
 2. People need to get their information firsthand.
 - (2) To TEACH and CONVERT THE LOST.
 1. Lost souls are precious -- Matt. 16:26; Lk. 15:7.
 2. Christ came to save the lost -- Lk. 19:10; John 3:16
 3. All have sinned -- Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:1 - 2.
 4. The church must preach to the lost -- I Tim. 3:15; Mk. 16:15 - 16.
 - (3) To STRENGTHEN the church.
 1. Acts 20:32; Eph. 4: 12; Matt. 28:20.

(4) To TEACH THE TRUTH -- John 8:32

1. The difference between the Law and the Gospel, between denominationalism and the Church.

II. HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL GOSPEL MEETING

1. BE PRESENT FOR EVERY SERVICE of the Meeting.
 - (1) Make plans NOW to do this.
 - (2) Certainly, it may work a few hardships on us.
2. PRAY for the SUCCESS of the Meeting.
 - (1) James 5:16; I Thess. 5:17
 - (2) Pray for sinners -- Rom. 10:1; Col. 4:3.
 - (3) Prayer for the Preacher -- Eph. 6: 18 - 19; 2 Thess. 3:1.
 - (4) Pray for the Church and One's Self.
3. INVITE and bring your friends and neighbors to the Meeting.
 - (1) Use your phone.
 - (2) Do personal work.
4. BE OPTIMISTIC and ENTHUSIASTIC! -- Titus 2:14.
 - (1) Don't give up before the meeting begins.
 - (2) Phil. 4:13 "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*".
5. ADVERTISE the Meeting -- Acts 10:24
6. GREET EVERY VISITOR and ONE ANOTHER -- get names and addresses of all.
7. BE REVERENT and ATTENTIVE during the services -- I Cor. 14:40.
8. Please SIT NEAR THE FRONT and join heartily in the song service.

III. HOW TO KILL THIS MEETING:

1. Begin coming the last day, instead of the first day of the Meeting.
2. Take a backseat, if there is one.
3. Watch to see how well the song leader can sing without your help.
4. Plan all the club meetings and socials possible and attend them.
5. Never invite anyone to attend.
6. Watch closely every remark of the preacher and hunt for mistakes in grammar and mannerisms, then be sure to publicize them.
7. At times, tell non-members not to believe all the preacher says.
8. Never pray for the meeting.
9. If you think of some conversation during services, get it off your mind then.
10. Sleep through the services.

IV. THE RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS MEETING:

1. The PREACHER'S responsibility:
 - (1) To study and be prepared to do his job well -- I Tim. 4: 13 - 15; 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - (2) To preach all the truth -- Acts 20:27; 2 Tim. 4: 2 - 5.
 - (3) Desire only to please God -- Gal. 1: 10.
2. The MEMBER'S responsibility:
 - (1) Burden your heart with the responsibility for the salvation of souls.
 - (2) Be enthusiastic; talk about the meeting.

- (3) Bring people to the meeting if you have a way to do so -- if not, invite them.
 - (4) Realize your own need to hear the Gospel, that your mind might be stirred -- 2 Pet. 1:13; 3:1.
3. The NON-CHRISTIAN:
- (1) Examine what is said in light of Truth -- Acts 17:11
 - (2) Realize NOW is the accepted time -- 2 Cor. 6:2

CONCLUSION

- 1. Let us work for this Gospel Meeting.
- 2. Are you here and need to obey the gospel?

Preached before a Gospel Meeting with Herschel Patton 1974 at Underwood Hts.; at Hebron Lane 1988; at River Bend 1999