**A Primer for the Gospel Meeting**

**Introduction**

1. Whenever a congregation schedules a Gospel Meeting there are matters which must be considered carefully before the meeting date arrives.
2. A Gospel Meeting is a work of the local church, and each member must be involved. There is work to do!
3. This lesson will consider some things which we need to prepare to participate in during the upcoming meeting.
4. Receive the Word
5. Primary Purpose of the Meeting – Edification
   1. **Ephesians 4:11-16** – Jesus supplies the church with evangelists and teachers.
      1. NOTE: Apostles and prophets are present in the preaching and teaching of the word.
      2. *A gospel meeting is designed for edification, encouragement, warning, and ultimately, growth of that local congregation.*
   2. **Do not think the meeting is unnecessary, or superfluous. WE NEED IT!**
6. Receive the Word
   1. ***“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Matthew 13:9)*** (After the parable of the sower.)
      1. Jesus meant more than just receiving the audible words emitting from Him.
      2. **(vv. 10-17)** – The consideration is a disposition to hear, and understand.
         1. **(vv. 13, 15)** – They do not understand despite hearing because they don’t want to – **dull hearts, hard hearing, closed eyes.**
         2. **(vv. 16-17)** – The chosen disciples of Christ had the same desire as the prophets – the difference was the revelation was made known. **(cf. 1 Peter 1:12** *– They truly wanted to know, but it was not God’s will to fully reveal it then.)*
      3. Jesus is not just calling for people to hear the words, but to listen with the intent to understand fully, and to obey – **there should be a correct disposition in relation to the truth. 🡪**
   2. **Acts 17:10-12** – Hearing of the Bereans.
      1. **Fair-minded** – *eugenēs*; well born, i.e. (literally) high in rank, or (figuratively) generous.
         1. Than the Thessalonians (not in totality) – **(v. 5)**
         2. **They were willing to give Paul and Silas a FAIR HEARING.**
      2. **Readiness** – *prothymia*; predisposition, i.e. alacrity: — forwardness of mind, readiness (of mind), ready (willing) mind.
         1. Toward the truth.
         2. They were ready to receive the truth no matter what it was – *searched what they knew to be the truth to make sure Paul’s word was truth.*
      3. **(v. 12)** – THEREFORE – they believed because of their desire to know the truth, thus hear the truth, and believe the truth.
   3. **James 1:21** – Receive with meekness.
      1. Firstly, lay aside sin – desire the truth, not the world.
      2. **Secondly – MEEKNESS** – *prautēs*; mildness, i.e. (by implication) humility: — meekness.
         1. Humility toward the one doing the teaching, and the message itself. (Contrast with **v. 19** – slow to wrath.)
         2. *“It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His (God’s) dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting.” (W.E. Vine)*
7. However, in order to receive the word, we must be in attendance to audibly hear it. (*This will occur if we have hearts prepared with desire to hear, understand, and obey in the first place.*) 🡪
8. Attend Each Meeting
9. The Command
   1. **Hebrews 10:24-25** – The assembly is designed by God for the benefit of the church.
   2. **It is not a suggestion. It is a command that we attend when the church assembles.**
   3. **Not only on the 1st day of the week, but the ASSEMBLY IN GENERAL.**
10. The Mindset
    1. **Luke 10:38-42** – The contrast between Mary and Martha.
    2. Martha was doing a noble work (**v. 40)** – However, Luke describes her as being ***“distracted.”*** From what? 🡪
    3. ***“Mary has chosen that good part” (v. 42***) – **(v. 39)** – **She had an opportunity to hear the life-giving words of Jesus, and she took advantage of it.**
11. *We have the opportunity to hear the words of Christ in abundance during a gospel meeting. Are your going to assemble, and choose the good part?*
12. Invite Others (Evangelism)
13. We are commanded by Jesus to make disciples of all the nations. We are to take advantage of every opportunity to teach people about Jesus. *Sometimes the opportunity is simply inviting others to hear the preaching of the word. 🡪*
14. **John 1:35-42** – Andrew invites his brother Simon to follow the Messiah.
    1. **From the teaching of John, and the subsequent time spent with Jesus, Andrew was convinced He was the Messiah, and thought it necessary to tell his brother.**
    2. “From the conduct of Andrew we may learn that it is the nature of religion to desire that others may possess it. It does not lead us to monopolize it or to hide it under a bushel, but it seeks that others also may be brought to the Saviour. It does not “wait” for them to come, but it goes “for” them; it seeks them out, and tells them that a Saviour is found. Young converts should “seek” their friends and neighbors, and tell them of a Saviour; and not only their relatives, but all others as far as possible, that all may come to Jesus and be saved.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible)
15. Show Hospitality
16. Hospitality
    1. **Romans 12:9-13** – we are to be given to hospitality.
       1. **(v. 13a)** – When a brother or sister in Christ needs something, and we can supply that need, we should be willing to help them. **(Visiting preacher…)**
       2. **(v. 13b)** – We should be willing to show hospitality to members of the church – even strangers – those we don’t know 🡪
    2. **Hebrews 13:1-2** – entertain strangers.
       1. ***“entertained angels”*** – **Genesis 18** (Abraham and Sarah); **Judges 13** (Manoah and his wife).
       2. **The writer is not suggesting that we may literally entertain angels, but that we may not know how special these strangers are in the Kingdom of God.**
17. Participating in the Gospel
    1. **3 John 5-8** – Gaius is praised by John for being generous and hospitable to traveling preachers.
    2. **(v. 8)** – In doing so, we become fellow workers for the truth!
18. **When we have a gospel meeting, the preacher needs a place to stay, and needs to be fed. If you have opportunity to participate in such, you should! (MEAL LIST…)**

**Conclusion**

1. Our gospel meeting is coming up next week, and we need to be prepared.
2. There are things to do, and opportunities to be taken advantage of!
3. **Are you ready to hear, and receive the word? Have you prepared your schedule to allow yourself to attend each night? Have you invited somebody? Are you ready to show hospitality and generosity to the visiting preacher?**