**What are my responsibilities for the gospel meeting?**

**Introduction**

1. While the term “gospel meeting” is something we’ve adapted for ourselves, the concept is as old as the church – **Acts 2:42, 46-47**
2. The Lord has given the work of self-edification to the church, and has equipped us to do so – **Ephesians 4:11-12**
3. Gospel meetings are an example of this work being carried out. We meet together to hear the gospel preached and receive edification.
4. There is a danger as a member of the church in viewing and approaching a scheduled gospel meeting passively – i.e. thinking there is not much that falls on you as a matter of responsibility in regard to the meeting.
5. However, ***“every joint supplies…every part does its share [to] cause growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:16).***
	1. This alone shows that everyone – not just the visiting preacher, or those hosting him, etc. – has responsibilities for the meeting.
6. What are my responsibilities for the upcoming gospel meeting?
7. Attend
8. Attendance of the assembly is a command of God – **Hebrews 10:24-25**
	1. Already noted (introduction) that the 1st century church met more than just on the first day of the week – times when they were gathering “daily.”
	2. While ***“the assembling of ourselves together”*** would certainly include the necessary meeting on the first day of the week, it by no means excludes other meetings.
	3. The Hebrews were told to be given to daily exhortation – **Hebrews 3:13** – especially in a time of such turmoil daily meeting would have been advantageous.
	4. However, for the person that contends that one need not attend every service, certainly not every single night of the gospel meeting, the problem runs deeper than whether or not God has specifically commanded we do so (even though He has commanded NOT to forsake any assembly).
9. Prioritize the Meeting as You Know You Should
	1. Like Mary who chose the good part – **Luke 10:38-42**
		1. Good part – the Lord Himself present to teach.
		2. Contrary – being distracted from the Lord by trivial matters.
	2. Those who possess the desire for a deeper faith in God will do all they can to attend every night – **Luke 17:5; Romans 10:17**
	3. Those who possess the desire for eternal life will do all they can to attend every night – **John 17:3**
10. Be Attentive
11. Attending is not enough. Some people attend, but they aren’t really there.
	1. Consider Philip – **John 14:8-11** – requesting for Jesus to show them the Father.
		1. It’s almost as if Jesus is saying, “Philip, I’ve been showing you this whole time, and you just aren’t paying close enough attention.”
		2. **(v. 7)** – He had just demonstrated in the previous verse that He shows the Father by showing Himself.
12. The Gospel Requires Our Focus
	1. **Hebrews 2:1** – avoiding apostasy requires attentiveness.
		1. Don’t miss out on anything being said.
		2. Don’t misunderstand what is being said.
	2. **Proverbs 8:32-36** – listen attentively and eagerly to wisdom.
	3. **Luke 8:18** – take heed how you hear.
		1. Don’t just hear what you want to hear.
		2. Listen attentively and honestly.
		3. Lest you fall into this category – **Matthew 13:14-15**
13. Search the Scriptures
14. The preacher has the responsibility to preach the truth – **1 Peter 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:2**
15. The Listener has the Responsibility to Prove the Message is True
	1. **Acts 17:11** – the Bereans did not take Paul and Silas simply at their word.
		1. They had a standard – the scriptures
		2. They compared the standard they knew to be true to what was being said.
	2. **1 John 4:1-6** – we are charged to test the spirits – are they of God? (Apostolic doctrine)
	3. **Jude 3** – we are ALL charged to contend for the faith if it is opposed.
	4. **Philippians 2:12** – it is our salvation we are working out, so we must be sure ourselves.
		1. ***“with fear and trembling”*** – is what is being said really true? Do you know?
		2. Can’t get to heaven based on another’s faith.
16. Search Yourself
17. Knowledge is necessary, but it is not enough – **2 Peter 3:18; John 5:39-40** (The Jews did not make the application to Christ, then to their following Him.)
18. We Must Examine Ourselves and Make Application
	1. **2 Corinthians 13:5** – are you in the faith? (The object of faith – gospel – that is being taught.)
	2. **James 1:21-25** – the word is only able to save the soul who receives it and obeys it.
		1. Don’t deceive yourself!
		2. No one will make it to heaven based on what they know, but what they have applied – **Galatians 2:20** – you know about Christ, but do you know Christ?
		3. **John 13:17** – blessed are you if you do them. (Concerning the example of service – washing disciples’ feet.)
19. Show Hospitality
20. A gospel meeting opens up doors of opportunities to show hospitality as we’re commanded to do when such opportunities arise – **Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9**
21. Hospitality Means More Than You Might Think
	1. **Hebrews 13:1-2** – “﻿The lesson in this is not that we may today literally entertain angels unaware of their status as the Lord’s messengers, but that we may never know how grand and special these Christian strangers who grace our humble abodes truly are.” (By Daniel H. King, Sr., Edited by Mike Willis. Truth Commentary – Hebrews)
		1. In the case of a gospel meeting we often do know how special these men who labor in the gospel are.
	2. **3 John 5-8** – to show hospitality to a preacher of the gospel is to share in the gospel.
		1. Opportunity to share in good things with the one who teaches – **Galatians 6:6**
	3. We ought to be eager to do so – **Acts 16:15** – Like Lydia.
	4. NOTE – hospitality is not limited to one thing.
		1. Keeping people in your home for an extended time.
		2. Entertaining people in your home for a brief time.
		3. Feeding someone.
		4. Providing a need for another.
		5. Etc.
22. Invite Others
23. We are commissioned to take the gospel to the lost world – **Matthew 28:18-20**
	1. This is to be done by all Christians – **Acts 8:4**
	2. Sometimes it is difficult for some to find the words to start that conversation about spiritual matters.
	3. Inviting one to come hear sound gospel preaching, while not being a replacement for personal evangelism, can be an effective tool to bring others to the obedience of faith.
24. An Invitation Can Be a Beginning to a Journey of Faith
	1. Example of Andrew to Simon Peter – **John 1:40-42** – Peter’s journey of faith started with an invitation to come to Jesus by his brother.
		1. His journey of faith was by no means perfect.
		2. However, look how great of a worker for Jesus Peter turned out to be.
	2. Example of the Samaritan Woman – **John 4:25-26, 28-30, 39-42** – The faith of the woman intrigued the others to investigate.
		1. When they heard Jesus themselves, their faith was wrought.
	3. As members of the church we have the responsibility to invite – **Revelation 22:17**
	4. Don’t forget to follow up! – **Acts 8:30-35** – ask, “Do you understand?” and be ready to study with them.

**Conclusion**

1. We are about to have our gospel meeting.
2. Understand that this is a work of the church – collectively – that includes everyone of us.
3. While the role you play might not be as public as some others which others are doing, understand you have HUGE RESPONSIBILITIES.
4. Are you ready to fulfill those responsibilities?