

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 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” Isaiah 55:10-11.

The Day of Gospel Meetings?

Some in America have suggested that the day of gospel meetings is over. Of course, if that were true then it would mean that preaching God’s Word does no good anymore! God said through Isaiah that this is not true. God’s Word preached always accomplishes what God intends.

What might be true is that Christians have lost confidence in the preaching of the gospel, or they may have lost interest in spiritual things. We give great lip service to God’s Word, but do we really read it, believe it and obey it? If so, then we will gladly share it with the rest of the world -- friends, family, co-workers, etc. The day of gospel meetings is not over, nor will it ever be.

The Church: A Lampstand

Revelation 2-3 speaks of the local church as a “lampstand” or “candlestick.” That is because the church is to hold forth the light of God’s Word to the rest of the world. When the church ceases doing that, then Jesus takes away that church’s identity, Rev. 2:5, 16.

The apostle Paul declared the same truth when he wrote: “... the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15). The church is the “pillar” and “ground” of the truth. That is, it is that which stands upon and holds up God’s truth.

So what job should the church be doing? It should be proclaiming the gospel by preaching and teaching. The first church was located in Jerusalem, and their beginning act after converting 3,000 souls was to “continue steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” (Acts 2:42). That is, the new members were indoctrinated with Christ’s doctrine as revealed by the apostles.

When Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, He gave “gifts” to men in the church, Eph. 4:8. What were those gifts? Apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors and teachers, Eph. 4:11. What do all these workers have in common? They are all teachers of God’s Word. Therefore, the church is to be actively engaged in teaching the Bible. It is done as we evangelize the lost, and as we edify the saved, Mk. 16:16; 1 Cor. 14:26.

The well-taught church in Jerusalem eventually was scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria, and they went everywhere preaching the Word! Acts 8:4. Eventually the gospel was spread throughout all the world by Christians and the church, Acts 1:8. This was done in the church’s first generation. Paul wrote to the Colossians: “... which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit...” (Col. 1:5-6; also v. 23).

Not everyone who heard the gospel, believed and obeyed it, Rom. 10:16-18. But truth-seekers believed the gospel, Jn. 18:37. They sought the truth and found it, and God saved them.

Dear readers, let us never grow weary in doing well, for in due season we shall reap the eternal reward. The gospel must continue to be preached today to those who will hear it. It has never been accepted by the majority of mankind, Matt. 7:13-14, 21. But it has always been accepted by the good and honest hearts, though in the world’s minority. Therefore, continue to sow the Word of God and pray that it will find good, honest hearts. When it does, it will always bring forth a good harvest!