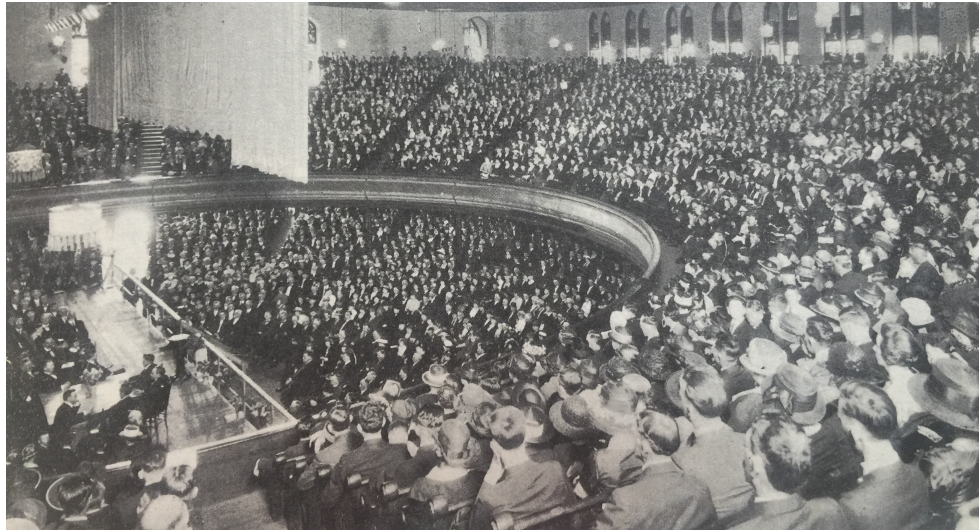


Grand Ole Opry or Gospel Meeting?

by Wayne Goff



This is a picture of **Ryman Auditorium**, Nashville, Tennessee in 1922. Ryman Auditorium is famous for being the long-time home of the Grand Ole Opry from 1943-1974. The Opry moved to The Grand Ole Opry House in 1974 but they still return to Ryman Auditorium from time to time.

However, this packed auditorium is the 1922 scene of the pure gospel of Christ being presented by Brother N.B. Hardeman in the “Hardeman-Pullias Meeting.” Many people obeyed the gospel from the efforts, and its influence is seen in the Nashville area still today by the multitude of churches of Christ there. I remember that one time my father was preaching in Illinois when a “drifter” looking for money claimed to be a member of the church of Christ. When asked where the Headquarters of the church of Christ might be found, he responded, “Nashville?” This exchange was forty years after the effort in the picture above.

The picture is shown as **proof** that one time in America Christianity was very popular, very important, and very honored. Look at the dress of the people at the time — suits, ties, dresses. But we have “come a long way, baby!” — and not for the better. Perhaps in time, after America wearies of the false promises of politicians and the endless parade of sports and athletics, that we can return to The Book and the way of life that has promise of this life and of the one to come. Pray that it may be so. God knows!

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