

A Successful Gospel Meeting

by Bill Crews

SOME NEW TESTAMENT FUNDAMENTALS: In your entire lifetime you will not learn truths more important than these: (1) All responsible people become guilty of sin and lost (Rom. 3:23). (2) Those who die in sin cannot dwell eternally in heaven, but must dwell forever in hell (Jn. 8:21; Matt. 25:46). (3) One soul (also spirit and inward man) is worth more than the whole world (Matt. 16:26). (4) The gospel is God's power unto salvation (Rom.1:16). (5) Therefore, lost men and women must have the gospel to be saved from sin and to be saved eternally in heaven. Individual Christians are to teach others the truth of the gospel (2 Tim. 2:2; Phil. 2:15-16). A local church is to sound forth the word of the Lord (2 Thess. 1:8). **How can we have a successful gospel meeting?**

What Is A Gospel Meeting?

It is a concerted and concentrated effort of gospel teaching conducted by a local church. It is designed to help the local church and its members fulfill **in part** their responsibility to teach the gospel. It features worship in prayer and song and lessons from the Bible by a qualified speaker or speakers. Such a concerted, joint effort has great potential.

For Whom Is A Gospel Meeting Designed?

It is designed for all of the local members, especially the weak and unfaithful. It is designed, in most cases, particularly for those who are not Christians. How many of these will attend in response to public advertisements? Usually, only a few, but we must not dispense with such advertisements. Most who attend who are not Christians will be present due to the personal invitations of the members who know them; some will attend **with** the members — this should tell us how important personal invitations are. Most of the visitors are usually faithful brethren from other congregations. We are surely glad to have them — they encourage us and benefit themselves, but our meeting is not planned for them. Our meeting is not a real success unless there are visitors present due to the efforts of the local members. (I have preached in a meeting in which half of those present were not Christians.)

What Is The Purpose Of A Gospel Meeting?

It is designed for the edification (spiritual building up) of brethren (Eph. 4:15; Jude 20-21). Every Christian is to strive for personal growth and improvement. Every Christian needs to hear old truth and to learn new truth (2 Pet. 1). A gospel meeting is designed for the restoration of the fallen (Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20). A gospel meeting is designed for the salvation of those out of Christ (1 Tim. 2:3-4). A gospel meeting should not be for entertainment or amusement; it should not be for political, social, or civic activities or pursuits; it should not be for the teaching of human speculations, theories, philosophies, or wisdom. A gospel meeting should not be a mere custom.

How Are We To Measure The Success Of A Gospel Meeting?

We must want it to be successful in God's sight, pleasing to Him, the kind of meeting He wants us to have. Success cannot be measured simply or primarily by immediate or obvious results. We can ask, at its end, "Did we realize the purpose of the meeting? Did we do our best as a church and as individuals? Did we fulfill our potential?" Man is to plant and water; God gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:5-7). This passage not only shows the superiority of God's role; it also shows what man's role is, what his limitations are, and the importance of his work. We must plant and water.

[continued on page 321103](#)