

# What It Takes To Have A Good Meeting

**Introduction.** Our gospel meeting begins later this week. To help it be successful, we must realize our personal responsibility before God to be here for every service.

Several young men will preach the truth but their effectiveness may be greatly hindered if we do not have enough interest to make this a good effort. What is required for us to have a successful meeting?

## I. **Purpose**

- A. The main purpose of a meeting is to evangelize. This meeting provides us with an opportunity to invite our friends, neighbors, coworkers and strangers to hear the soul saving gospel (Luke 19:10; Romans 1:14-17; 10:17; Ephesians 1:13).
- B. It also stimulates us towards good works, revives our first love and helps to prevent us from becoming lukewarm in our service to God (Hebrews 10:23-24; Revelation 2:4-5; 3:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).

## II. **Preparation**

- A. What would you think if your favorite team did not come prepared to play? You would be upset! How much more will the Lord be upset with us if we are not praying, inviting and exhorting others to come this heavenly feast (Matthew 22:1-14)?
- B. These men have prepared their lessons. We should be preparing our hearts to receive the word (James 1:21-22).

## III. **Presence**

- A. While your presence is encouraging to everyone, your absence would be demoralizing just like Titus' absence depressed Paul (2 Corinthians 2:12-13).
- B. Members of the church are known to miss services to play or attend ball games, entertain family members, watch a TV program or simply never plan to come. Will the Lord accept those excuses (Luke 14:18-20)?
- C. Unless you are sick or unavoidably have to work, you should be here or you will be missed because your seat is empty (1 Samuel 20:18). It is very encouraging to see brethren who plan their schedule around gospel meetings.

## IV. **Participation**

- A. Please get here early to greet your brethren (there are several that plan to come from long distances) and possibly those from the

community (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14).

- B. We are not here to be entertained (Psalm 27:4; 84:1-4, 10), but we are to be active participants in worship while God is the audience (John 4:23-24; Philippians 3:3; Psalm 29:2; Acts 17:23-25, 28).
- C. We need to come with enthusiasm, singing, praying and receiving God's word with great eagerness, trying to be a better Christian (Acts 17:11).

#### V. **Presentation**

- A. They will preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified rather than using enticing words of man's wisdom or eloquence of speech (1 Corinthians 2:1-4).
- B. They are not coming to tell us stories that will make us feel good about ourselves or tell jokes to entertain us but instead they plan to prick our hearts and consciences with the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12-13; 2 Corinthians 10:4).
- C. Their purpose as preachers is to encourage you to put your trust in the power of God and not in the wisdom of men (1 Corinthians 2:5).

#### VI. **Prayer**

- A. Sometimes we purpose, plan, prepare, are present and participate but we forget about the importance of prayer to a successful meeting.
- B. The first century church was a praying church (Acts 2:42; 4:31; 6:6; 12:12; 13:3; 14:23). Let us pray that the gospel might have free course into good and honest hearts (Acts 6:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; Ephesians 6:18).

**Conclusion.** Let's work together for a good week. This congregation and the lost of Lufkin deserve our very best. Most of all, our Lord deserves our very best. Let's make sure that we show Him how much we love Him and His cause.