

How To Have A Great Meeting

Introduction. Gospel meetings, like Bible classes, are expedients, and the decision was made in this congregation many years ago that events like these are in our best interest. We support them, not out of loyalty to the congregation, but loyalty to Christ for He said in Matthew 12:30, “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.” Sometimes we can get discouraged thinking that they will not accomplish anything or do any good, but gospel meetings can be a useful tool in the work of the local church, and a lot of their success comes down to preparation. To that end, we will evaluate four to have a great meeting.

I. Realize Your Need

- A. Even the most mature Christian needs to regularly hear the word of God preached. We all need to hear gospel sermons — even on subjects with which we are completely familiar.
- B. Gospel meetings are designed, not merely for the unsaved, but also for Christians. The disciples knew they needed increased faith (Luke 17:1-5). Your faith is not so great that it cannot be strengthened. For anyone redeemed by the blood of Christ, the target is to grow (2 Corinthians 13:9; Ephesians 3:17-19; Colossians 1:28; 2 Peter 3:18).
- C. Remember that faith — for the saint as well as for the sinner — comes by hearing the word of God (Acts 20:32; Romans 10:17; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11). A meeting is a wonderful way to hear it. We pray that open hearts will hear the message (2 Corinthians 6:11).

II. Put The Kingdom First

- A. Make up your mind that nothing will be allowed to take precedence over your gospel meeting. This is your meeting — your contributions are paying for it!
- B. If it is necessary for you to change some plans or to make some other sacrifice in order to place this first, do it gladly. Simon Cyrene became infamous for lifting a physical cross (Matthew 27:32). You can gain Heaven by lifting a metaphorical one (Luke 9:23-25).
- C. Put God where He belongs in your life — crown Him as King of your heart (Luke 20:25). People like Solomon (1 Kings 3:11-13), Simeon (Luke 2:25-35), and Anna (Luke 2:36-38) were all people who could put God’s kingdom first.

III. Burden Your Heart

- A. Remember that being a Christian involves much more than refraining from doing evil. To be faithful to Christ, we have to do positive good (James 4:17; cp. Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13).
- B. See people as the Savior did, like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36-38). Paul became all things to all men in order to save some (1 Corinthians 9:22). They both wanted to get people into Heaven (Luk 19:10; 2 Timothy 1:10-11).
- C. Talk to your friends about the meeting. Pray for the salvation of all, but select two or three people as the special object of your prayers and your interest. Invite them to the services. Always be thinking, “Lead me to some soul today.”

IV. Attend The Assemblies Expectantly

- A. Go, not from a sense of painful duty, but with a heart filled with gratitude for the privilege of hearing the word of (Matthew 5:6; cp. Nehemiah 8:1-3, 7-8, 12; Acts 17:32).
- B. Go to the services expecting to be blessed. Consecrated Bible study will whet your spiritual appetite, and intensify your interest in the salvation of other people. Realize that there is a lot yet for you to learn. Exploring the Bible will expose you to our single most important source of instruction that relates to your deepest needs (Psalm 119:5, 12, 33, 66, 98-100, 104, 124, 128, 130, 135, 169).
- C. Although it is not an absolute maxim, people generally live happier lives when they follow the wisdom of the scriptures (Psalm 119:2, 11, 18, 34, 97, 101, 105, 117, 133, 144), so listen to the sermons with the idea of receiving more light that you may walk in the way that leads to eternal joy (Ephesians 5:8-14). If this is your attitude, you will not need to be exhorted to attend the services; you will eagerly look forward to each succeeding assembly and in the end, the bliss of Heaven (1 John 3:2-3).

Conclusion. Pray for the preacher, the song leader, and those who have special responsibilities. Encourage indifferent church members to attend. Make a special effort to visit, call, write, or send a card to all members that are not attending regularly before our meeting begins. It will do more good than you realize.