

Why Members Should Attend Gospel Meetings

Psalms 1:1,2; 122:1

Introduction:

- A. Your reaction to meeting announcement: Delight? Dismay? Disappointment? Disgust? Disinterest?
- B. Gospel meeting often embarrassment to elders, preachers and others.
 - 1. Try explaining why more visitors than members.
 - 2. Try explaining to visiting preacher why so few.
- C. Three good reasons for members' attending gospel meetings.

Discussion:

I. To Support a Great Message.

- A. The message of this meeting is worthy of our support (1 Cor. 1:18-25; Rom. 1:15,16; Gal 1:8-10).
 - 1. Able to produce faith (Rom. 10:17; cf. Heb. 11:6).
 - 2. Able to save souls (Jas. 1:21).
 - 3. Able to build us up (Acts 20:32).
- B. The messenger of the meeting worthy of our support.
 - 1. Gospel message preached by faithful men. (2 Tim. 2:2).
 - 2. Such men will preach with or without our support — but they deserve it.
 - a. Paul (Cf. 2 Tim. 4:9-16)
 - b. One who teaches doctrine of Christ (Converse of 2 John 9-11)
 - c. Elder (or anyone) who speaks the word. (1 Thess 5:12-13; Heb. 13:7)
 - d. Need to support them for own good. (Cf. Phil. 4:16,17).

II. To Receive a Great Message.

- A. In order to increase and refresh our knowledge (Col. 1:10; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Tim. 2:14; 2 Pet. 1:12; 3:1).
- B. In order to confirm and increase our faith. (Acts 14:22; 1 Thess. 3:1-3).
- C. In order to help us identify and avoid false teachers. (2 Pet. 2:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:1-4).
- D. In order to prepare us to teach our neighbors. (Cf. Matt. 28:19-20).

III. To Send a Great Message.

- A. The message my attendance sends.
 - 1. About my commitment to the cause of Christ. (cf. Matt. 23:3).
 - 2. About my attitude toward gospel meetings.
 - 3. About my priorities in life. (Cf. Matt 6:33).
 - 4. About my attitude toward the gospel itself.
- B. The objects of my message.
 - 1. Community.
 - 2. Friends.
 - 3. Family.
 - 4. Brethren.
 - 5. Preacher.

Conclusion:

- A. If you are not here next week, what will be your *true* message?
 - 1. I would like to be there, but cannot because of circumstances beyond my control?
 - 2. I could be there, but am not because of circumstances within my control?
- B. Remember, I may not know your circumstances — You and God know!