

## **10 Ways You Can Help Your Gospel Meeting**

The success of your upcoming gospel meeting depends on you. It depends upon your involvement, your excitement, and your participation. What can you do to help make your upcoming meeting a success?

1. "Remember its purpose." The main purpose is to preach the gospel so that those who are lost might be saved (Mark 16:15-16). It should be our aim to have as many lost souls present as possible. Another purpose of a gospel meeting is for saints to be edified (1 Corinthians 14:26). It goes without saying that we cannot be edified if we are not present!

2. "Invite others." Andrew invited Peter to follow Christ (John 1:41-42). The Samaritan woman invited her whole city to come and hear Christ (John 4:28-29). It stands to reason that if people do not know about our meeting they certainly will not come. We have fliers available. Take a few to pass out in your block to let your neighborhood know about the meeting.

3. "Pray diligently." Peter said, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers..." (1 Peter 3:12). Pray for the meeting, that the speakers will teach what is needed and that the lost will come and hear.

4. "Attend faithfully." The early disciples "continued daily with one accord," and this is an opportunity for us to do likewise for a week (Acts 2:46). If the meeting is not important enough for the members to support, why should anyone else come?

5. "Arrive early." When you invite someone to your house to eat at 6:00, do you appreciate it if they come at 6:15? You would prefer them to be a little early. When we are late, we can disrupt the worship. When we are early, we can greet visitors.

6. "Help prepare the building." I know that we have those who are on the list to clean the building, but during a gospel meeting there is more work to do. Each one can help out by picking up paper, putting song books in the rack, etc. Why would visitors want to come back if the members do not care enough to keep the building attractive?

7. "Sing fervently." We are told, "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19). Good singing helps to make a good meeting. We should follow the leader, concentrate on the words, and sing with heartfelt zeal.

8. "Welcome visitors." We should appreciate the presence of each visitor, whether a member of the Lord's church in another place or someone who is not a child of God. Visitors may well determine whether they will return or not based on how they are received. The more people who greet them, the more appreciated visitors will feel.

9. "Sit up front." We realize that some need to sit in the back for health reasons. But when most of the members sit in the back of the building, it sends a negative message. Leave the back pews for visitors who may be shy or late in coming. Also, sitting together up front will make the singing sound better.

10. "Listen carefully." Remember that faith comes by hearing the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Be a good example of how to pay attention to the preaching.

**- by Kevin Maxey**

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## **Foolish Disregard**

To dismiss God from our decisions is a most foolish thing to do. The reality of God is the most massive truth we'll ever encounter, and the most consequential. It is folly to omit this truth from our thinking, as if we expected it to move out of our way.

Some individuals disregard God by adopting the intellectual position that He does not exist. These have thought the matter through and come to the conclusion that there is no God. In their conduct, they may live as if there were a God and may even adhere to a certain spirituality, but their position, at least philosophically, is that a personal God does not exist.

If God does exist, such a denial is obviously unwise. But many of us disregard Him in a way that is no less foolish. We do this when we simply conduct our lives without taking God into serious account. This is a more practical kind of atheism. We pay lip service to a God who "perhaps" exists, but we believe that this God can be safely set aside in the actual conduct of our day-to-day affairs. He has no real impact on our lives. In Psalm 14:1, it is this kind of "fool" who is

described. He says "There is no God" not so much by his dubious philosophy, as by his disobedient lifestyle.

There is a sense in which this kind of atheism is more arrogant than any other. In Psalm 10, for example, we are shown how PRESUMPTUOUS it is to disregard God: "The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts" (v.4). "He has said in his heart, 'I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity'" (v.6). "He has said in his heart, 'God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see'" (v.11). "He has said in his heart, 'You will not require an account'" (v.13).

When we live in this manner, we trivialize God in the most blasphemous way. Unlike the atheist who believes there is no God to be dealt with, we believe that we don't really have to deal with the God who does exist. We think that, for all practical purposes, He can be ignored. But if God is our Creator, our disregard only shows us to be foolish. It does nothing to diminish Him.

**- by Gary Henry**

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## ***Our Gospel Meeting***

Have you spent any time thinking about the benefits to be derived from our gospel meeting? Here are some things that we believe can result:

- You can worship and glorify God.
- You can help to support the teaching of truth.
- You can deepen your understanding of the Scriptures.
- You can strengthen your faith.
- You can be encouraged by your association with fellow Christians and you can accomplish your duty to edify your brethren.
- You can help to teach a lost person by inviting them to attend with you.

Of course, there are some other things that you could do this week instead of attending each service of the gospel meeting:

- You could stay home and watch TV.
- You could neglect your duty to God and show a greater love for the things of this world (1 John 2:15-17).
- You could forget about learning more of God's truth.
- You could turn your back on your brethren and choose instead to associate with worldly friends.
- You could simply forsake your spiritual obligations and serve your carnal desires.

Now, look at those two lists. At the end of this week, which course will you have followed? Think!

**- by Greg Gwin**