

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Gospel: Essential Means

(Jerry Fite)

Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel because this message from God is “*the power of God unto salvation*” (Romans 1:16). The good news opens the heart of those dead in sin pointing them to the essentials of spiritual life in Christ. Peter makes this point when he writes, “*For unto this end was the gospel preached even to the dead, that they might be judged indeed according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit*” (1 Peter 4:6). Paul and Peter remind us that the Gospel is not an end in itself, but the essential means to salvation and understanding God’s demand for us to walk in the spirit, not in the flesh. All who come to Christ for salvation are taught the Gospel (John 6:44-45, Acts 16:30-32). In reality, the Gospel is not the means to an end, but is the means to life without end in Heaven (Colossians 1:5).

Therefore, we enter a very important week as we promote a “*Gospel Meeting*.” The title emphasizes what is important: **The Gospel**. It is a gathering where the Gospel is preached. The singular “**Meeting**” is really com-

prised of “seven” gatherings through the week when the good news from God for salvation and how we should live is emphasized.

What a great opportunity to invite our neighbors, friends, co-workers, classmates and others to hear the Word proclaimed! Having week-night services, hopefully there will be at least one night they can meet us at the “Gospel Meeting”. Their souls are precious, and destined to the judgment seat of Christ. Should they not have an opportunity to know who their Saviour is, before they meet Him as judge? (2 Corinthians 5:10). “Knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men...” (2 Corinthians 5:11). The persuasion comes through the means of the Gospel. The “Gospel Meeting” can be the means to this important beginning.

The “Gospel Meeting” will also give us an opportunity to meet and worship God together. At every service of the “Meeting” we will be arousing our spiritual senses to love and good works

(Hebrews 10:25). We will teach and admonish one another in singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5: 19, Colossians 3:16). Through the week we will gather with brethren focused upon spiritual growth, and we will grow nightly in the faith. Why would we miss it?

The “Gospel Meeting” has seen changes through the years. A “two week” or “ten day” Meeting was popular when local preachers were not in abundance. Today, we see more Sunday through Wednesday Meetings advertised. Some preachers are not extending a public invitation at the close of their sermon in beseeching the proper response to the Gospel. Connecting such a practice to the “altar calls” of Denominations, and fearing “emotional manipulation” these preachers need to remember Paul publicly instructing people of in the proper response to the Gospel (Acts 20:20-21). The Gospel is the essential means to salvation, and obedience to the Gospel is the essential response (Hebrews 5:9). Hear the public proclamation this week!