

Upcoming Events

Fall Gospel Meeting: November 3-6

Business Meeting: Today at 4:30 p.m.

Ladies Bible Class: Today at 4:00 p.m.

Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Hebrews class Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

If Every Member were Just Like Me...

- What if everyone knew what I know about the Bible and studied it as much or as little as I do?
- What if everyone sang during worship as I do?
- What if everyone sought to be involved in the Lord's work (or escape from being involved) just as I regularly do?
- What if everyone possessed the same attitude about others as I do?
- What if everyone tried to lift and encourage others, contacted others, spoke positive words to fellow laborers just as I do?

October Birthdays

3 Betty Heitmeyer

28 Allan Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

Church of Christ

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Gospel Meeting Preparation

Excerpts from article by Steven Matthews
(Modified for Indio)

A good, successful gospel meeting doesn't happen by accident. It's the result of careful, detailed work and planning by everyone — the local church, individual members and families, and the visiting preacher. It's an investment of time, money and other resources. But sadly, there are some brethren who have grown weary of gospel meetings. They're outdated, archaic and a tradition of men, according to the naysayers. The question is even raised if there is really any value in having gospel meetings anymore. For our upcoming meeting, let me suggest four reasons why gospel meetings are valuable.

The value of reaching the lost: There are two types of people described in scripture — those who are lost and those who are saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. In order for a lost sinner to obey the gospel, they must first hear the gospel (Romans 10:17). A gospel meeting provides that opportunity. There are plenty of prospects (John 4:35). Who are they? Friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, and even ourselves. We are people of influence; gospel meetings allow us to influence.

The value of worshiping and edifying: It is an opportunity to worship God (Psalms 122:1). As a Christian, I should be excited about any and every opportunity to worship God. It is also an opportunity to edify the brethren, and I can do that by participating. Welcome visitors. Sing in a spirited manner. Those who lead, lead with enthusiasm. Give God the best (Col. 3:16-17, 23). Pay close attention to the sermons.

The value of learning and growing (2 Peter 3:18): Gospel meetings proclaim the word of God. Nothing more, nothing less. It is a spiritual feast. A gospel meeting is an opportunity to fulfill that hunger and thirst (Matthew 5:6). But it's also an opportunity

for self-examination (2 Corinthians 13:5). Maybe I need a shot in the arm or a jumpstart to my spiritual life. Let us prepare our hearts to receive God's Word (Ezra 7:10).

The value of spiritual over worldly (Matthew 6:33): A gospel meeting is an opportunity to demonstrate our priorities and our attitude toward the gospel. Additionally, it also exposes one's priorities in life. We prepare for social occasions, but have we placed an equal amount of emphasis to attend our gospel meeting? This is "our" meeting. Let us take ownership of this meeting and make it a priority to be here.

The Lord's Baseball Game

Author Unknown

The Lord and Bob were watching a baseball game in which the Lord's team was playing Satan's team. The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the ninth inning with two outs.

Love stepped up to the plate. He swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because Love never fails.

The next batter was Faith, and he also got a single because Faith works with Love.

Godly Wisdom was the next batter. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass. Ball one. Three more pitches, and Godly Wisdom walked because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were now loaded. The Lord turned to Bob and told him He was going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Bob said, "He sure doesn't look like much!"

Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone. But Satan was not worried. His center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head, and sent him crashing to the ground. Grace scored a home run.

The Lord's team won. The Lord then asked Bob if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not

win the game. Bob said he did not know why. The Lord explained, "If your love, faith, and wisdom had won the game, you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith, and Wisdom will get you on base, but only My Grace can get you Home.

The Lord Knows the Nature of our Hearts

By Tim Dooley

The old saying goes, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time." We are often very good at putting on a facade and fooling others, but we need to remember that we cannot and will not fool God. "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap*" (Galatians 6:7). And be sure "your sins will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). The saddest thing is that some have fooled themselves into thinking their hearts are right with God when God knows the true nature of our hearts.



While King Saul ignored the true causes of his troubles, God saw everything clearly. So many of us need to do some serious introspection and consider the true nature of our hearts in humility and fear. Only when we clearly see our hearts as God sees them can we begin to understand God's will for us.

As Saul pursues David in an attempt to kill him, David is afforded an opportunity to kill Saul in a cave. Yet, even though he is encouraged to do so by his men, David refuses to "*put forth mine hand against my lord; for he is the LORD'S anointed*" (1 Samuel 24:10).

An important spiritual application for us to remember is that Jesus declares those who are not with Him, are against Him (Matthew 12:30). In other words; those who are not faithfully serving the Lord are putting forth their hands against the Lord's anointed. The Lord knows our hearts and who is on the Lord's side. Am I faithful?