

Upcoming Events

**Revelation class: Today at 2:30 p.m.
“Armageddon”**

**PREACHING NEXT WEEK, OCTOBER 10
John Buttrey**

**UPCOMING FALL GOSPEL MEETING
October 24-27
Les Cunningham**

**Meet Up Class
Monday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.
77682 Country Club Drive A-2
Palm Desert**

October Birthdays

28 Allan Brown

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How To Make A Gospel Meeting Successful
(Excerpts from Internet article – modified for Indio)

In the next couple of weeks, we are going to have our fall gospel meeting, with brother Les Cunningham presenting some very interesting lessons. We know we will find the lessons to be scriptural (which is the most important quality of any sermon), encouraging (which is something we all need at times) and uplifting. This article is to encourage each one of us to begin thinking and meditating on making this a successful gospel meeting.

Why have a gospel meeting? It is a way for the church to carry out its responsibility to preach the gospel. Pulpit preaching isn't the only way but it is one way. It is an opportunity for evangelism. Note: the results of sound, understandable teaching (I Corinthians 14:23-24). And we know it's often easier to invite someone to something than it is to just begin to study with them. Gospel meetings can draw people from the community that we can follow up on later in efforts to teach them.

Gospel meetings are an encouragement to a congregation. Often, hearing new ideas, or the same ideas restated through a different mouth can stir us up from time to time (Ephesians 4:11-16).

What can make such an effort successful? It doesn't necessarily mean lots of people. We sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that spiritual success and large numbers equivalent. There are religious efforts in the religious world (and among our own brethren) that are having monumental numerical showings, but that doesn't necessarily mean that spiritual victories are being won. Scripture says, *“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil;...”* (Exodus 23:2 KJV).

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Jack Critchfield

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(Address Service Requested)

We should always work for good attendance but that isn't always the mark of a successful gospel meeting. By successful we need to keep specific things in mind...

It glorifies God. (Colossians 3:17) False teaching or weak teaching no matter how popular will not do this - nor will unscriptural practices.

It advances the cause of Christ (Luke 15:4-7). If one soul is stirred to think about obedience to the gospel who had never before considered it the cause of Christ has been advanced - that may or may not show itself in a conversion during a meeting, but the cause has still been advanced.

It builds up the congregation. The easiest thing about a gospel meeting should be to edify the congregation itself yet it is amazing how often we fail to take advantage of the opportunity we have in a gospel meeting to grow. If one Christian is enriched with a morsel of truth which can help them defeat the assault of the enemy in our lives there has been success (Ephesians 6:13-17).

How then can we make this gospel meeting a success?

By inviting people to come: non-Christian co-workers; those we socialize with; members of other congregations. This is not overly time-consuming - probably one minute to ask them to come with us. We sometimes are very timid in such invitations just asking and leaving it at that. How about inviting them directly, saying something like, "Would you come with me Monday night? (or Tuesday night, whatever)?" Then keep asking people until we get at least one person says yes whom we can count on! Do we realize what kind of impact we could make on the lives of those around us if each of us here could bring (not just invite) only one person? (20+ visitors?). Young people can invite school classmates. We can invite co-workers, clients, employees, old friends, neighbors, family members, etc. Remember the power of an invitation (John 1:35-42).

By faithful attendance ourselves. Some things that hinder our attendance: our work schedule. Maybe tell your boss "My church is having a series of studies next week that I really would like to be off for." Not only will it make a good impression on your boss, but you might be able to get him (or her) to come with you.

Fatigue can be a real hindrance; hard to avoid. If possible, go to bed earlier, get up earlier. If there is nothing we can do, just remember a week (or 4 days) is really a short period of time and this is a special week. Of course, illness cannot be avoided. However, feeling that our presence will not matter is not true. Sometimes, there is any attitude which tears at the fiber of Christians today...the feeling that "nobody cares about church anymore!" But our presence is one way to show others that isn't true of us, and we'll try to help it not be true of others!

If we will commit ourselves be at each and every service we possibly can, it will guarantee the following benefits: we will learn something you didn't know before. (Matthew 13:52). We will grow stronger in our personal Christian life. When the word of God is taught growth will take place - (Acts 20:32). And we may help someone else go to heaven (Hebrews 10:23-25).

By having a mind ready to study. It is really amazing sometimes the attitudes we bring to worship God. We say that our worship is a spiritual sacrifice, and it should be. We say that we have come to worship and glorify God, and we should. But sometimes, we bring to God the concentration and alertness of a bored student in their least favorite class. God deserves our best! Let's give our best!

By Praying for the success of the meeting. What can we pray about? That we will have someone to bring with us; that the whole congregation will be faithful in their support of the effort (Philippians 1:3-6); that someone's heart will be touched to conform more to the truth (Colossians 4:2-4); that the preacher will have a safe journey here, a clear memory of his material while he is here, that his lessons will be sound, and that he will have a safe return to his home; that the congregation will have the wisdom to discern the soundness of the lessons (II Timothy 4:3,4). We must "*Test all things; hold fast what is good*" (I Thessalonians 5:21).

God has given us the responsibility to preach the truth, and to do what we can to advance the cause, yet ultimately the real spiritual increase will come from Him (I Corinthians 3:5-8; Isaiah 55:10,11). Let's us do what we can and pray that God will give us spiritual increase.