

THE VALUE OF GOSPEL MEETINGS

Most congregations plan and conduct at least one or two gospel meetings during the year. There are those who question the value of such efforts. In the minds of some they are a waste of time. How many times has it been said, "We don't have gospel meetings like we used to"?

It could be that some gospel meetings have become nothing more than a tradition. We have then because we have always had them. Unless we understand the value and importance of such efforts, we will not have successful gospel meetings. Why are gospel meetings valuable to the work of the local congregation? Gospel meetings are valuable in the ...

PREACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD

We must take advantage of the opportunities to make known the Will of God. The Word must be proclaimed. **"Preach the word..."** (2 Timothy 4:2). **"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..."** (1 Peter 4:11). We must preach the Word and gospel meetings provide such an opportunity.

PROMOTING OF THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

We have the obligation to **"seek and save the lost"** (Luke 19:10. Our main business in the church is to be in the "soul-saving" business. Gospel meetings remind us of the great responsibility we have toward those (1) outside of Christ that need salvation (Romans 1:16-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) and (2) in Christ members of the church who have become unfaithful, that need to be restored (James 5:19-20).

PROTECTING THE WELFARE OF THE CONGREGATION

God desires for His people to be united (John 17:20-21; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-6; Psalm 133:1). Feuding, fighting and fussing among the brethren is fatal to the spiritual welfare of any congregation. Gospel meetings encourage brethren to think about others and to work together. Gospel meetings edify us and strengthen us as we hear the Word proclaimed and labor together (1 Corinthians 15:58).

PREVENTING OF WANDERING FROM THE LORD

It is possible for the child of God to become unfaithful to the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:12; Galatians 5:4; 6:1, 7-9; Hebrews 3:12; James 5:19-20; 2 Peter 2:20-22). As we grown **"in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"** (2 Peter 3:18), we are helping ourselves to remain faithful to the Lord. In 2 Peter 1:5-11, we learn that we must "add" and "abound" in the "Christians graces." Why? **"...to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall"** (2 Peter 1:10). Gospel meetings help to prevent unfaithfulness.

PROVING OF OUR WELL-BEING

Gospel meetings help us as Christians to see where we are spiritually, It helps us to checkup on our (1) Commitment, (2) Conviction, (3) Courage, and,(4) Compassion. in gospel meetings we demonstrate what is really important to us. Do we pray for our gospel meetings (Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)? Do we eagerly participate in the promoting of such efforts (1 Corinthians 3:9)? When the gospel meeting begins we will be present for every service (Hebrews 10:24-25)? Gospel meetings are a test of our faith and faithfulness.

PREPARING FOR THAT WONDERFUL PLACE CALLED HEAVEN

It is God;s desire that we go to Heaven (1 Timothy 2:4). Heaven is a prepared place for those who have prepared themselves (John 14:1-3; Matthew 7:13-14, 31-23). Gospel meetings afford us the opportunity to think even more about Heaven (Colossians 3:1-3). As we think about Heaven and hearing the Gospel of Christ being faithfully proclaimed, we are motivated to make sure we are preparing for Heaven according to God's plan. God's plan is the only way (John 14:6; Hebrews 5:8-9; John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32-33; Mark 16:16; Revelation 2:10). Preparing for Heaven is what this life is all about (Philippians 1:21; Ecclesiastes 12:13).

How thankful we should be for gospel meetings where the Truth is faithfully proclaimed and upheld. Gospel meetings are valuable.

via *The Better Way*
Spring, TX

BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574

(Greater Augusta, GA area)

GOSPEL MEETING OCTOBER 1-5

OUR PERFECT GOD

SUNDAY, October 1:

10.00 am Bible Study for all ages.

11.00 am **Our Perfect God** – Ken Chumbley

6.00 pm **God's Perfect Possession** – Jimmy Aaron

MONDAY, October 2:

7.30 pm **God's Perfect Plan** – Sherman Offord

TUESDAY, October 3:

7.30 pm **God's Perfect Pattern** – Matt Shelton

WEDNESDAY, October 4:

7.30 pm **God's Perfect Peace** – Jimmy Aaron

THURSDAY, October 5:

7.30 pm **God's Perfect Prepared Place** – Ted Rush

PLAN TO BE HERE FOR ALL SERVICES

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663

www.belvederechurchofchrist.org E-mail church@belvederechurchofchrist.org

ARE WE IN A NUCLEAR WAR?

Have you seen any reports that state we are in a nuclear war or of nuclear bombs having exploded? According to Yisrayl Hawkins, a nuclear war was to have begun on September 12, 2006. That's eleven days before the date of writing this article. According to this individual, the beginning of the end was to have begun on September 12, 2006 with the start of nuclear war. His claim is that he has gleaned this information as a result of studying the Bible and Bible prophecies for 50 years. He wrote, as recorded on his web

site: "The Savior showed that there would be wars and rumors of wars. The wars that take place at the end, that could darken the sun, would be engaged by angry nations. Nuclear war is what's prophesied for this end time, and we can clearly see the threats being made among the nations. These wars do not occur all at once. The initial wars, beginning September 12, 2006, will not darken the sun." He continues, "This first nuclear war will eventually lead to the involvement of all nations. These wars will intensify in the thirteen 13 months that remain after the initial war prophesied for September 12, 2006, until the final burning blast that darkens the sun." I wonder what he thinks now, as the date he predicted has come and gone without the events taking place that he predicted!!! Incidentally, he web site has made no comment regarding the passing of this date!

Back in 1988, there were others who had indicated that they expected the Lord to return on September 12, 1988. There was a book published at the time offering 88 reasons why should would happen on that date. I have never see a book that gave 88 excuses as to why it didn't! Many folk gathered together to await that day so that they could see the Lord return but later had to return home disillusioned when the "prophecy" failed.

Sadly, these are not alone. Over the centuries there have been those that have made such "predictions" that have failed to come to pass. Among these the Millerites in 1843, "Judge" Rutherford with his "Millions Now Living Will Never Die" that predicted 1927. As the 20th century was about to dawn there were those who were teaching that Christ would return through the "Heads" into Sydney Harbor, Australia. Grandstands were built on the Heads where the "faithful," actually the gullible waited in vain to see the Lord return.

One might ask, how many more times will people set dates for the return of Christ and the end of the word? The answer is simple. As long as there are gullible people who will heed the word of these false prophets and never question the fact that time and again there have been predictions made over the two millennia since Christ ascended to heaven that have never come to pass.

However, true Bible believers will never be "hoodwinked" by such false prophets. They know that the Lord said, *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"* (Matthew 24:36-44). Peter also wrote, *"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness"* (II Peter 3:8-13). One doesn't know when a thief is coming, he doesn't send an announcement! Further, no man knows when the Lord will return, we have that statement from the Lord himself. Thus, if any man says he knows when the Lord will return and the end of the world will be we can be assured that he is a false teacher.

That the Lord will return is clearly taught numerous times in scripture and we need to be prepared for we do not know when He will come. We have that warning from both the Lord and from Peter in the passages quoted above.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Let us continue to keep in our prayers Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and her mother, Kathy Treadway's mother, Lanny Niver's father, Tim Arnold's father.

Sister Pebbles was not well Sunday and unable to be out.

Ted Rush, preacher at Mauldin, SC continues to do well and look forward to being with us during the meeting.

There will be a pot luck meal after the morning services today on October 1 at the start of our Gospel Meeting. Plan to stay and eat.

Gospel Meeting, North Columbia Church Sept. 24 through 28 - see bulletin board for details.

LISTEN TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST RADIO PROGRAM
1050 AM -- WFAM
Sundays 8.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m

GOSPEL MEETING ABC'S

ADVERTISE THE MEETING,
ALL MEMBERS ATTEND ALL SERVICES,
ABSORB ALL LESSONS TAUGHT,
ALWAYS PRAY DAILY FOR THE MEETING,
ACCEPT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS SUCCESS.

BRING AS MANY AS YOU CAN TO THE MEETINGS,
BE EARLY FOR EACH SERVICE,
BE REVERENT IN EACH SERVICE,
BELIEVE AND APPLY EVERY TRUTH TAUGHT,
BE COURTEOUS TO ALL VISITORS,
BE ENTHUSIASTIC AND CHEERFUL.

CALL ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND INVITE THEN,
CENTER YOUR THOUGHTS ON SPIRITUAL THINGS,
COOPERATE IN ALL THE EFFORTS OF THE MEETINGS,
CREATE A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AT THE SERVICES,
CANCEL ALL OTHER ENGAGEMENTS DURING THE WEEK,
CORRECT EVERYTHING AMISS IN YOUR LIFE