

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

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### “Benefits of Attending Gospel Meetings”

By Phillip Keathley



*Psalms 119:97 “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.”* The psalmist writer expresses to us his love for God’s word. He reminds us just how often God’s word should be on our minds: all the day! One of the best ways for us to keep God’s word on our minds, as frequently as possible, is to listen to His word and study it at every opportunity we can get. Periodically, the opportunity for us to meditate upon God’s word arrives in the form of a gospel meeting. The spiritual benefits of a gospel meeting far outweigh any objections that one may have for such a meeting. While we may be able to think of many reasons why gospel meetings are beneficial—in this article, we wish to focus on the main points of benefit in the areas of edification, fellowship, and local church growth.

#### 1. Edification.

Each of us needs to be built up and encouraged by the truth of God’s word. The Hebrew writer tells us in *Hebrews 10:22-25* “22, “let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” When we attend a Gospel meeting we have a chance to be around our brothers and sisters in Christ perhaps more frequently than at other times. This is an excellent opportunity for us to not only be provoked unto love and good works, but to provoke them in the same manner. The edification from hearing a sound gospel message is one that we will get nowhere else. God’s word feeds our soul and builds us up, so that we are made stronger for the time well spent at the feast.

#### 2. Fellowship

As Paul began the first epistle to the church at Corinth, he referred them as those who are “*sanctified in Christ Jesus*” (1 Corinthians 1:2). In verse 5, Paul reminds us that we are enriched in Jesus, in all utterance and knowledge. When we come together during a Gospel meeting we increase our knowledge about Jesus by listening to the utterances of God. When we do this with our brothers and sisters, we have opportunity to fellowship in this wondrous spiritual growth together. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:9 “*God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

We have a marvelous fellowship with Jesus when we are united in His word. When each of us come together, and are united in His word, we are engaged in fellowship with one another. We learn from the preaching of a sound brother, who has most likely traveled far, to share with us a lesson from God's word that is aimed at strengthening and encouraging us.

### **3. Local Church Growth**

As we grow as individual Christians, and as we fellowship more with one another, the result should be a more unified congregation, a stronger group of believers, which means church growth. We are told in Acts 9:31 *"Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied."* When we come together during a Gospel meeting we are edified, by learning what it means to fear God and by finding comfort from God's word which is supplied to us in the inspired writings of the Holy Spirit. The more we learn about the peace we have with God, the more we learn what it means to walk in the fear of the Lord, and the more we learn about the comfort of the Holy Spirit, the stronger the local church will be, the better equipped the local church will be, and the result will be a congregation that is multiplied.

And although we want visiting members from other congregations to attend and support our gospel meetings, we also want visitors from the community to join us as well. It would be very encouraging and beneficial for us to invite people who may attend a denomination regularly and otherwise would not get to come any other time to our meetings. They may come and hear the truth on important subjects such as baptism for the remission of sins, the church of the New Testament, the need for Bible authority for all that we do in service to God, and other lessons that the religious world doesn't preach in the sectarian pulpits of today—and be converted to truth. In short, gospel meetings are still a powerful means of converting souls to Jesus (Rom. 1:15-16; Rom. 10:13-15).

## **The Power of the Gospel**

By Brian Meade

Paul the apostle was writing to the church at Rome when he said, *"I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, <sup>b</sup>But the righteous man shall live by faith."* (Romans 1:14-17)

### **1. The Gospel has Universal Power to Save Mankind.**

No longer was salvation exclusively for the Jews (John 4:22), but for all of mankind (Galatians 3:26-28). The gospel is the universal means of saving man from a universal condition of sin (Romans 2:9;3:23). But God had to take away the barrier separating Jews and Gentiles to bring them together into one body, the church (John 10:16; Ephesians 2:11-22). This is why Paul wanted to preach wherever and to whomever would listen to the gospel's message, obey it, and live!

### **2. The Gospel has a Powerful Message of God's Love.**

Paul would say to the Corinthians, *"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* (I Corinthians 1:18) The gospel has at the center of its message God's love for mankind expressed at the cross of Calvary. (John 3:16-17; Romans 5:5-9) The great sacrifice of God's one and only Son for the world is the great drawing power of the gospel, as Jesus said, *"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."* (John 12:32) All men should marvel at the wondrous and amazing love in the message of the cross! The love of God is a love we didn't deserve and can never earn (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:3-7), and yet God did not want to let His creation perish. God very lovingly provided a way for man to be saved through His Son—but it is up to men to obey Jesus and enter His love by the gospel (I John 5:1-3).

### **3. The Gospel Converts Men to God's Way of Living Right.**

Paul, himself was living proof of the gospel's power to convert the erring to the truth. He would say before King Agrippa, "So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth." (Acts 26:9) He then describes his actions of persecution against the church of our Lord in verses 10-12. That is why many marveled when Paul was converted and said, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" (Acts 9:21) The power of the gospel changed Saul the persecutor (I Corinthians 15:9) to Paul the bond-servant of Christ Jesus (Romans 1:1) It is also what makes a dramatic change (repentance) in the thief that Paul mentions in Ephesians 4:28— who gives to others instead of stealing from them. That kind of change is what Paul spoke of as the gospel's power to make us righteous— "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith." (Romans 1:17) God makes us righteous by Christ's blood and as God guides us "in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." (Psalm 23:3; Psalm 119:172)

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Elmo Wilson, Martha Little, Martha Norvell (in Ripley Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain Doles, Penny Carmichael, Greg Fields, Kimberly McCullough, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Mike LaRue, and Eric Potts.

**Local Meetings:**

**Our Gospel Meeting** is here! **April 22-27**, with Kevin Kay. 7:00 PM Nightly..

A **Singing** will be held at the Middleton, Tn. Community Center on **May 12th** at **2:00 PM**. Jim Deason will be leading the service. For additional info, please contact Dwain Barnes.

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Adam Harris  
**Preaching:** Kevin Kay  
**Sermon:** "Judas: The Man Who Betrayed Jesus"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am**

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:** Kevin Kay  
 "Pilate: The Coward Who Condemned Jesus"

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Paul Johnson  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Russell Briggs  
*1 Corinthians 2:8-11*  
**Song Leader:** Jerry Kennemur  
**Lord's Table:** Fred Johnson  
**Assisting:** Nathan Meade & Russell Briggs  
**Preaching:** Kevin Kay  
**Sermon:** TBA  
**Closing Prayer:** Brian Meade

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**April 25th:**

**Gospel Meeting:** Kevin Kay  
**Song Leader:** Paul Busby  
**Closing Prayer:** Dan Cottrell