

Do Gospel Meetings Do Any Good?

by Wayne Goff

There has been a slow, but sure decline of gospel meetings in recent years. Covid-19 shut down all such efforts in 2020, but the problem began long before that. Churches now are substituting “song worship” for gospel meetings because they are better attended by brethren in the area. I believe the problem is far more serious than a pandemic, or just encouraging worship in song. I believe brethren are drifting away from sound, biblical, soul-convicting preaching. So the question is not “do gospel meetings do any good?” but rather “Does preaching do any good?!”

The Importance Of Preaching

God ordained preaching as the Divine means to save lost souls. “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!’” (Romans 10:14-15). Paul is quoting Isaiah and making the application to the gospel.

The objection is raised: “But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our report?’” (v. 16). Is there something wrong with gospel preaching when people hear but do not believe?! **Absolutely not!** The *problem* is with the hearts of the hearers! And Paul’s inspired response is: “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (v. 17). There is no other way under heaven given to us by God to save lost souls! Hear and believe, or reject and be damned.

The Results Of Preaching

“But we *preach* Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). Notice that Paul shows us the results to both Jewish and Gentile audiences: (1) Jews consider the “*crucified Christ*” a stumbling block; (2) Greeks consider the “*crucified Christ*” foolishness! So did God suggest we try another method, or another message?! **Absolutely not!**

“But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:24). The crucified Christ is “*the power*” and “*the wisdom of God*” to the honest, truth-seeking, humble soul! Indeed, **the same sun** (gospel) **that melts the butter** (humble heart) **will also harden the clay** (rebellious heart)! Is that frustrating to the preacher? It most certainly is, and not a little discouraging. But God’s Word always accomplishes **His** will, not **ours**. So if brethren are not studying their Bibles, learning God’s will, developing a taste for spiritual food, then the problem is with them! **Somebody needs to wake up and repent!** Dear reader, if this is you, then please do so before it is too late.

Bible Preaching

If you need to be further impressed with the importance and value of “**preaching**” in the Scheme of Redemption, then consider these many Scriptures on the subject:

- ☑ John the Baptist & Jesus began their ministry **preaching**: “*the kingdom of heaven is at hand,*” **Matthew 4:17; Mark 1:7, 38.**
- ☑ The Twelve Disciples were commanded to **preach** the gospel to the whole world, **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**
- ☑ The nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem would not be destroyed in 70 A.D. until “*this gospel is preached in the whole world,*” **Matthew 24:14**
- ☑ Every evangelist and apostle in the book of Acts traveled everywhere to “**preach**” the things concerning the name of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God, **Acts 3:20; 4:2; 8:5, 12, 25, 35,** etc.
- ☑ The gospel message is mentioned as being “**preached**” over one hundred times in the New Testament! **It does lots of good!**

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