

View

“Gospel Meetings”

Gospel meetings have been part of my experience for a long time. As a child living in Southern California, where there were probably 20 churches within a 50 mile radius, our family attended many meetings. My mom and dad liked to go and always took the family along. They became part of what we did as a family 3-4-5 times a year.

What is a “gospel meeting”? We use this term to describe the gathering of the church for preaching of the gospel, usually for a week. They are really gospel “meetings” because each time we meet is a meeting.

Are such meetings authorized? Is there precedent for them? I doubt that what we do was exactly done the same way as in the first century but the Bible clearly authorizes other meeting times. The only activities limited to the first day of the week are giving and the Lord’s Supper. See Acts 10:27, 34ff; 12:12 (cf. v. 5); 14:27; 15:30-32. None of those passages imply that the activity was taking place exclusively on the first day of the week. See Acts 2:46 (cf. Acts 17:11)

What are some of the benefits of gospel meetings?

There are a lot of good things to be enjoyed in a week-long gospel meeting. You will see and encourage other brethren, spend more time together and relive the atmosphere of the “first century church” you find in texts like Acts 2. You’ll also get a fresh perspective from the man asked to preach for the week. We need to hear other men present the gospel because, while we are all preaching the same truth, it is good to hear it in another voice now and then.

Most importantly, we benefit because we hear the truth presented. Really, a gospel meeting is a “success” as long as the gospel is taught with clarity. Preachers are not called on to be entertaining or clever – their role is to be clear and forthright in their presentation of the truth.

This Gospel Meeting

That’s why we have asked Paul Earnhart to come. We have not asked him just because it’s time to have a gospel meeting. We have not asked him because he’s a friend whom we’ve decided to reward with a meeting. We have asked him because he is a competent teacher of scripture.

I can honestly say that I am not aware of a preacher who equals Paul Earnhart’s ability to explain biblical texts profoundly, but with absolute clarity. If you listen carefully, you will not only hear good preaching – you’ll be moved to change your life in light of it.

The church of Christ

Meeting at 900 E. Natoma
PO Box 492
Folsom, CA 95630
916/608-4866

Elders

Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230
Randy Clark: 916/939-5066
Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048
David Posey: 530/676-9514
Dennis Reagan: 916/797-5539

Deacons

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436
Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320
David Byrd: 916/985-6564
Barrett Cain: 916/351-0774
Michael Caisse: 530/672-2902
Jeff Clark: 916/985-8689
John Daniels: 916/985-3090
Jerry Deschler: 916/285-9115
Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071
Eric Fields: 916/817-6495
David Main: 650/292-5417
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399

Evangelist/Editor

David Posey: 530/676-9514
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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.
Private classes arranged
at your convenience.
www.folsomchurch.com
Webmaster: Richard Harvey

What can we do to make this a successful meeting?

- **Be here each evening.** Meetings are not very well attended these days. Many churches have stopped having them or reduced them to a weekend because people have gotten too busy to attend. Even here, for a few years, gospel meeting attendance was pretty poor. We've done better but we should not let up. I hope to see everyone here next week, as much as possible.
- **Invite your friends and neighbors.** Meetings are a great time to invite your friends to hear the gospel. Some people are reluctant to attend on a Sunday because they attend somewhere else or they, for some reason, have an aversion to "church." An evening meeting may be less intimidating to them. Brother Earnhart will not embarrass anyone by making fun of them or anything like that; you can bring your friends knowing they will hear the gospel without any histrionics or harsh words.
- **Bring your Bible, open it and open your mind.** The Bible gives us all things that pertain to life and godliness (II Pet. 1:3). Paul Earnhart will be here to tell us what the Bible says, not what Paul Earnhart thinks. To get the most out of the meeting, bring an attitude like the Bereans, who "searched the scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11).
- **Make a sincere effort to practice what is preached.** Preaching has no value unless it is put into practice. Listen carefully to each lesson and then seek to implement the principles in your marriage, parenting, at work and at play.

DP

Love's Challenge

(BASED ON JOHN 13:35)

What joy to love the saints above
When I get home to glory.
To love below, the saints I know,
Well... that's another story!

To love mankind I always find
To be a simple task.
To have love for the man next door
Is more than one should ask!

Love's full and free when two agree;
It isn't hard at all.
But easy it ain't to love the saint
Who drives me up the wall!

When someone's kind, and has Christ's mind,
I love him with great ease.
But one who hurts with words he blurts,
Don't make me love him, please!

If no one needs my loving deeds,
I love unstintingly.
But hungry saints with real complaints
Should stay away from me!

But Jesus said, to those He led,
"By this all will discover
That you are Mine. This is the sign –
That you love one another."

UNKNOWN AUTHOR

Quote

"Ours is an age where ethics has become obsolete. It is superseded by science, deleted by philosophy and dismissed as emotive by psychology. It is drowned in compassion, evaporates into aesthetics and retreats before relativism. The usual moral distinctions between good and bad are simply drowned in a maudlin emotion in which we feel more sympathy for the murderer than for the murdered, for the adulterer than for the betrayed, and in which we have actually begun to believe that the real guilty party, the one who somehow caused it all, is the victim, and not the perpetrator of the crime."

ROBERT FITCH, FROM A 1959 ARTICLE ENTITLED THE OBSOLESCENCE OF ETHICS