

The Old Paths

Volume 11, Issue 5

March 28, 2004

“A Gospel Meeting”

Richie Thetford, Castleton, IN

Editor's Note: Seeing as brother Thetford has been holding our meeting the last couple of days, I thought you might like to read from his pen as well. Please give careful consideration to brother Thetford's articles in this issue of *The Old Paths*.]

...I think it would do us all good to remind ourselves of the goals and aims of having a gospel meeting and the things that each one of us can do to help make this gospel meeting a success.

Save The Lost

The only means in which God has of reaching the hearts of men is through the preaching of the gospel. The gospel is preached in gospel meetings for the purpose of creating, building, and strengthening the faith. None can be saved without believing in Jesus Christ (Jn. 8:24; Mk. 16:15-16). The gospel is preached in an effort to save the lost. Even though fewer and fewer non-Christian visitors are attending gospel meetings than in times past, still there are some non-Christians that attend the gospel meeting. There are teenagers, mates of Christians, and friends of Christians that attend the gospel meeting and therefore every effort must be made to reach these individuals so they can learn the truth of God's Word before it is everlastingly too late.

Keep What We've Got

Gospel meetings are good to have in order to strengthen all

Christians. We want to hold on to all the individuals that have already become Christians. There's no better way to do this than to continue to teach our number the Word of God. When Paul departed from the elders of the church at Ephesus, he said: "*So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified*" (Acts 20:32). Families have had their marriage strengthened and received words of encouragement and hope through gospel meetings. Every Christian can always use more strengthening in their daily life!

Making The Gospel Meeting A Success

Every Gospel Meeting can be a success if we want it to be. The first thing we can do and should have been doing for the past month or so is to **pray** about the meeting. Pray that each of us will not be slack in inviting our friends and neighbors. Pray that many souls will be able to attend so the gospel can be heard and that their hearts will be pricked so as to respond favorably to the Word of God.

Singing is a vital part of the meeting. Often times the singing can make or break a gospel meeting. Nearly every gospel preacher I have known has said that good congregational singing adds much to the success of a gospel meeting. Good spiritual singing makes a preacher want to preach because it shows him that the congregation is interested in spiritual matters. The Hebrew writer wrote: "*Therefore by Him let us continually*

offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name" (Heb. 13:15). Therefore, come prepared to sing and sing with the spirit and understanding (I Cor. 14:15). Good singing helps make everyone in the audience more receptive to the preaching.

Every member should strive to **meet and greet all those attending** the meeting, especially visitors from the city. A special effort should be made to get the names and addresses of all visitors from the local community. This information will be invaluable for follow up after the meeting. Remember that a first impression is a lasting impression. This is a very friendly congregation and most visitors will recognize that immediately. You can make a special effort to ask the visitors to sit with you during the service.

Every single member should make a personal effort to **attend every assembly** of the meeting. The men of this local congregation thought it was important for us to have a meeting and therefore each and every one of us should put forth every effort to be here. Remember, we can't edify and encourage one another if we are not here. Anything worth doing is worth doing our best. If we will give this meeting our very best effort in prayer, inviting our friends and neighbors, singing, and attendance then it will be a success! Paul wrote in Romans 10:13-15: "*For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. 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!"*

(From: www.thetfordcountry.com)

The Best Life To Live

Richie Thetford, Castleton, IN

Peter writes in 1 Peter 4:2, "so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God." Christians know that the best life to live is for the Lord and it must not be lived in error as pointed out in 2 Peter 2:18. There are so many evils of the world circling all around us and it is sometimes difficult to live our lives in a way that the Lord would be pleased with. But we must live a life that is not after the flesh (Rom. 8:12,13), and not unto ourselves. The apostle Paul writes, "and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf" (2 Cor. 5:15). We have a responsibility to live our lives for Jesus.

Live a Life of Righteousness

Therefore our life must be a life of righteousness (Titus 2:12; 1 Pet. 2:24), to be lived holy (2 Pet. 3:11), Godly (2 Tim. 3:12), peaceably (Rom. 12:18; 2 Cor. 13:11), soberly (Titus 2:12), and honorably (Heb. 13:18). One can prepare to live the best life by self-denial. When we get to the point that we can put Jesus ahead of all our own desires and wants then we are on the way to learning what true Christianity is all about. One needs to accept Christ (Jn. 6:57-58), get rid of sin (Rom. 8:13; 1 Pet. 2:24), obey Jesus (Heb. 12:9), and have a loving attitude (Lk. 10:27-28). One must strive to live the best life possible while on this earth (Titus 2:12-13) because it is profitable. By living a life of Godliness here in this world we can have hope

(Titus 2:12-13), and the knowledge that we will live forever with God eternally when our life here comes to an end (Jn. 6:58; 1 Tim. 4:8). Yes, the best life to live is a life pleasing to God our Father!

Living In Godliness

Richie Thetford

In 1 Timothy 4:8 it says: "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." From this verse we can learn that it is godliness that is the most profitable for us because it is through godliness that we have the promise of eternal life. Therefore knowing this, we should strive diligently to ensure that we are doing everything we can to live our lives in a godly manner which is formal (2 Tim. 3:5) and true (1 Tim. 6:3,11).

Finding True Godliness

We can find true godliness only in the gospel. In 2 Peter 1:4, Peter writes: "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." When we open the pages of the New Testament we find what God expects of each of us as we journey through this life. He

fully expects that we live our life in accordance with His will (Matt. 7:21). When we are determined to live godly then it will show in our daily walk, which everyone in the world will be able to see (Titus 2:12).

Why Live Godly?

There are several reasons why we must strive to live a godly life. The Bible teaches that ungodliness is condemned (Jude v. 15). When we live an ungodly life, we will **NOT** get the opportunity to live forever with God. We need to live a righteous life because it is profitable (1 Tim. 4:8), and commanded (2 Pet. 1:6). We can live godly by denying sin (Titus 2:12), professing our faith before others (1 Tim. 2:10), and by practicing living a Christian life daily (1 Tim. 4:7).

The Results of Living Godly

First of all, when we live a godly life, doing all of God's will, be ready to suffer some persecution. Paul told Timothy: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Understanding that this will happen, we should gain strength through His Word because godliness will result in great gain (1 Tim. 6:6), and the promise of eternal life (1 Tim. 4:8). Are you living your life in such a way that it "professes godliness?"

(Both articles found at:
www.thetfordcountry.com)

Past Radio Questions Are Posted At:
www.southside-churchofchrist.com



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!

Come and meet with the church at Southside.

Our address is: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303.

MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Morning Bible Study _____ **9:30 am**
Sunday Morning Worship _____ **10:20 am**
Sunday Evening Worship _____ **6:00 pm**
Wednesday Evening Bible Study _____ **7:00 pm**

Don't forget the call-in radio program on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-9246 (WBIO)** with your Bible question.

Preacher/Editor: Jarrod Jacobs

Phone: (270) 683-5386

Website address: www.southside-churchofchrist.com (Updated weekly!)

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Jer. 6:16)