

## **THE GOSPEL MEETING**

In the first century the apostles boldly preached to assemblies of men and women that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that His word is the power of God unto salvation to both Jew and Gentile (Romans 1:16-17). Preaching is essential to the salvation of those who believe (1 Corinthians 1:21). Philip, one of the seven chosen to minister to the needy widows (Acts 6:3-5), was sent by the Holy Spirit to the city of Samaria where he preached Christ in a “Gospel meeting.” His preaching was very successful in that city in that “*both men and women*” were baptized, and it produced great joy in that city. Churches of Christ have engaged in “meetings” where the Gospel was preached on some regular basis since the middle of the last century.

During the 1930s and 1940s Gospel meetings would often span three Sundays, and sometimes go through the third Wednesday evening. During this period Gospel meetings nearly always had two services every day of the meeting. The preaching was distinctive and forceful. Sermon subjects expressed Bible matters. Doctrinal error was exposed, and immorality was condemned without apology. Obedience was emphasized in clear language with Bible examples. Every member was interested in his relative and neighbor to hear the gospel of Christ, and they brought them to meetings night after night.

During the 1970s and 1980s the three-day meeting became popular. More television, ball games and social functions left no time for attending Gospel meetings. Gospel meetings provide a good way to edify a local church and reach some few who come a time or two, but they are not presently reaching the majority of lost people who need the Gospel. We must work harder to encourage people to attend meetings where the simple Gospel of Christ is preached. We must secure men who will earnestly preach Christ unto the people and preach “*the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ*” (Acts 8:12).

Brother Dwight Butler’s lessons are focused on these issues that matter. Bring your neighbors, friends and relatives to hear the saving Gospel! You owe that to them.

*(redacted from an article by H. E. Phillips)*