

LESSON FIVE
ON
PERSONAL WORK

SAVING SOULS DURING A GOSPEL MEETING

INTRODUCTION

Times have changed. Conditions have been altered and because of this we need to pause and try to evaluate that good that can be accomplished in a gospel meeting today. Some factors certainly are involved in the decline, if there has been a decline, of this type effort today. Let us consider the good side of such an effort along with some things that are to detract.

SOME THINGS THAT HINDER

1. Modern transportation makes a sixty mile trip just a pleasant one hour trip.
 1. This was unheard of in past years.
2. Television is said to draw from eight to twelve hours of the adult's life each week.
 1. Most television shows fall on the immoral side of life: violence of every sort and kind continually flashed before the children. This includes murder, shady sex life, drinking ETC. No wonder we have produced a nation of crime to the point that it is not safe for any public official on our streets as well as others. Many other hinderances could be named.

MORE FAVORABLE FACTORS

In spite of all the hinderances that we can think of there are still many favorable reasons why we should have present day gospel meetings. Some are:

1. Some may be encouraged to obey the gospel during a gospel meeting because it affords a special period of sober thinking. One reason for the success of the early disciples was:
 1. Their task was so important as to merit their daily attention. Note some references to this daily attention:
 1. "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple..." Acts 2:46
 2. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47
 3. "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Acts 5:42
 4. "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations." Acts 6:1
 2. Lesson to learn:
 1. We will never take the world for Christ with spasmodic, don't care, so what, attention.
2. Another factor in favor of the gospel meeting:
 1. Romans 1:16 still reads, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT WILL HELP

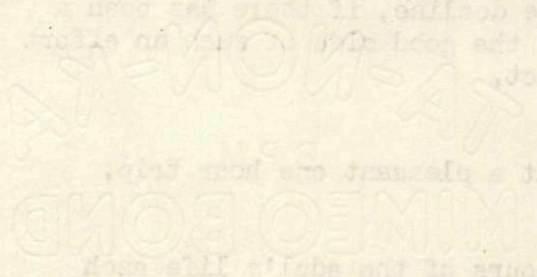
1. PERSONAL INVITATIONS

1. These invitations may be:
 1. Printed matter prepared by the church and handed out by the individual.
 2. Personalized, hand written notes in the form of an invitation.
 1. A personal letter, signed, sealed, and mailed with a 6 cent stamp to a husband, daughter, son, or any friend might get the desired results.
 3. It might simply be a telephone call, or a personal visit.
2. THE QUESTION IS OFTEN ASKED, "What can I do?"
 1. Speak a good word for the meeting and the preacher.
 2. Speak a good word about the brethren, the church in general.
 3. You can pray for the meeting and the work in general.

THE PROBLEM OF THE GOSPEL

THE PROBLEM

There have been changes, conditions have been altered and because of this we need to re-examine our position. It is not that we are re-examining the gospel itself, but rather the way in which we present it. The gospel is not a static entity, it is a living word which must be translated into the language of our time. We must ask ourselves: what are the things that are true and eternal? What are the things that are passing and temporal? We must find the eternal in the temporal, and the temporal in the eternal.



THE PROBLEM OF THE GOSPEL

The first question that arises is: what is the purpose of the gospel? Is it merely to inform, or is it to transform? The gospel is not a mere message, it is a power. It is the power of God which brings life to the dead. It is the power which makes us new creatures. We must therefore ask: how can we best present this power to our people? We must find a way to make the gospel a living reality in their lives. We must not merely tell them about God, we must show them God. We must not merely speak of sin, we must show them the way of life. We must not merely preach the law, we must preach the grace of God.

THE PROBLEM OF THE GOSPEL

In spite of all the hindrances that we can think of, there are still many in the world who are seeking the truth. They are hungry for the word of God. They are thirsty for the living water of life. We must therefore be faithful to our commission. We must not be discouraged by the opposition that we meet. We must not be weary of the long and arduous journey. We must go on, for the sake of the souls of men. We must go on, for the sake of the glory of God. We must go on, for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

The second question that arises is: how can we best present the gospel to our people? We must find a way to make the gospel a living reality in their lives. We must not merely tell them about God, we must show them God. We must not merely speak of sin, we must show them the way of life. We must not merely preach the law, we must preach the grace of God. We must use the language of our time, and the methods of our time. We must be creative and imaginative. We must be bold and fearless. We must be faithful and true.

The third question that arises is: how can we best present the gospel to our people? We must find a way to make the gospel a living reality in their lives. We must not merely tell them about God, we must show them God. We must not merely speak of sin, we must show them the way of life. We must not merely preach the law, we must preach the grace of God. We must use the language of our time, and the methods of our time. We must be creative and imaginative. We must be bold and fearless. We must be faithful and true.

THE PROBLEM OF THE GOSPEL

THE PROBLEM

The fourth question that arises is: how can we best present the gospel to our people? We must find a way to make the gospel a living reality in their lives. We must not merely tell them about God, we must show them God. We must not merely speak of sin, we must show them the way of life. We must not merely preach the law, we must preach the grace of God. We must use the language of our time, and the methods of our time. We must be creative and imaginative. We must be bold and fearless. We must be faithful and true.