

A Few Thoughts About the Upcoming Gospel Meeting Bryan Garlock

Next week will be our fall gospel meeting with Greg Litmer. It will be a Sunday thru Wednesday meeting dealing with various topics. Our meeting times will be Sunday at 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 5:00 pm. On Monday thru Wednesday we will meet at 7:00 pm. Our prayer is that you will join us at those times to learn more about God's word and to be edified and encouraged.

For those of us who are members of the Lord's church that meets here in Hillsboro, there are some things we must do to prepare for and execute a successful meeting.

First we must pray. As we approach our heavenly Father this week, be sure to speak to Him about our efforts and our work. Pray for Greg and his efforts as well.

Second we must get out and work. Talk to friends and family, neighbors and co-workers. If we don't tell a soul about this meeting we shouldn't expect a soul to attend! There are an unlimited amount of flyers available and we have been given the resources from God to advertise this meeting. Let's do it!

At this point one may say they do not have the time to get out and tell folks. Turn off the television, get off Facebook and the Internet and forgo the sports, etc. and you'll have plenty of time! Remember, we make time for the things we want to do. Call up a brother or sister to go along with and get out and work.

Another point worth mentioning here is the available resources to spread the gospel. All the sermons will be recorded and uploaded to the website. These files will be accessible at churchofchristatnorthside.com. For those without Internet we can provide CDs. If you are signed up with different social media outlets such as Facebook or Twitter take full advantage by sharing the links from the website with your online friends.

Finally we must attend. The church has determined to assemble for the purpose of studying and growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. To purposely and conscientiously choose not to attend is to forsake the assembling of the saints; since the saints will be assembled (Heb. 10.24-25).

One should consider the many reasons why they should attend. To begin, as mentioned above, the church has purposed to do this. Thus as members of this local church we have pledged to work and worship together. If one was to claim to be too busy to attend, maybe they should reevaluate their schedule. If we are too busy for God then we are too busy for heaven. Too, we are not encouraged, nor are we there to encourage others. Next, we may have visitors from the community and we need to be there to welcome them. Finally, Greg has spent valuable time preparing these lessons for our benefit. Let's show our love and appreciation to him by listening to his messages.

Therefore it is wise that we take full advantage of the time and thank the Lord for opportunities such as these. BG

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Announcements

- Remember the shut in's.
- Pray for the church and one another.
- Remember the spiritual sick among us.
- Call or email Bryan to add announcements, thanks.
- We need volunteers for door knocking. Please see Bryan.
- We need volunteers for picking folks up. Please see Bryan.
- Norma Wilkin's funeral is at the Thompson Funeral Home today at 2:30. Visitation is from 12-2:30. Food can be brought to the funeral home.
- Our meeting with Greg Litmer begins next Sunday. Make plans to attend.
- Potluck at the fire station on N. East St. after services next Sunday.

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Nov 1 Matt 20-21 Nov 2 Luke 18:15-19:48 Nov 3 Mark 11, John 12 Nov 4 Matt 22, Mark 12 Nov 5 Matt 23, Luke 20-21 Nov 6 Mark 13 Nov 7 Matt 24

The Truth Sometimes Hurts Jonathan Perz

How much do you appreciate the truth? The truth is easy to hear when it is flattering, encouraging and uplifting. However, the truth can sometimes hurt. Do you always desire the truth from those around you, regardless of whether it is favorable or not? Do you always demand the truth from those who preach and teach the gospel of Christ?

The truth pleased the rich young ruler until Jesus told him the one thing he lacked (Mark 10:17-22). Some would call such a declaration of truth unloving, but the Spirit called it love (note verse 21). How do we feel when someone courageously and honestly points out our shortcomings (Prov. 27:6)?

Most of the Jews who heard Peter on Pentecost appreciated the truth, though it indicted them. They chose repentance and baptism (Acts 2:36-40). Whereas, those Jews who heard Stephen speak that same truth hated what was spoken. They responded by stoning Stephen to death (Acts 7:54-60). How do we respond to the truth?

The Galatians loved the apostle Paul—so much that at one point they were willing to pluck out their own eyes and give them to Paul. However, in the very next verse, Paul was compelled to ask if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth (Gal. 4:14-16). Do we despise those who tell us what we need to hear?

A few reminders should help us to realize the value of truth. 1) Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). 2) God's word is truth (John 17:17). 3) Knowing and abiding in the truth can set us free (John 8:31-32). 4) Those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness will face the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18). 5) We must always speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). 6) We should always speak the truth with our neighbors (Eph. 4:25). 7) Love rejoices in truth (1 Cor. 13:6).

Simply stated, unless we have a love of the truth, we will never appreciate the truths that hurt (2 Thess. 2:10-12). Unless we are willing to accept painful truths, we cannot know the sanctifying power of truth (John 17:17). Unless we obey the truth, we will be condemned (Rom. 2:8).

How much do you appreciate truth? The answer is painfully obvious when we are confronted with agonizing truths that require change in our lives. Change hurts, but the truth saves. How will you respond the next time you are confronted with the truth?