

*In search of...*

# Truth & Right

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## What Will You Bring?

This week, starting this morning, we have decided to hold a Gospel Meeting. A visiting preacher is with us, and will be presenting a series of Bible-based lessons. This is a great opportunity to learn, to grow, and to reach out to those in our community. We have held meetings before, and if the Lord wills, we will do so again, so this week should not be anything we have not seen before, in a way. You should already know what a Gospel Meeting entails: singing, praying, lessons, fellowship, and visitors. But no matter how many meetings you have attended in the past, I have a question for you regarding the one this week: What will you bring?

"Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry. Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments." (2 Tim. 4:11-13)

In that passage, we see Paul

nearing the end of his life, writing to Timothy and instructing him on what to bring. Do we have an understanding of what to bring to a Gospel Meeting (and any assembling of the saints for that matter), and why it is important? Maybe or maybe not. First things first: obviously, what you need to bring is yourself. You should make every effort to come to each night of the meeting, to support not only brother Brian but the congregation here too. You should bring yourself because where else do you need to be? These opportunities only come along perhaps twice a year; is there something else this week that is so urgent so as to take precedence? Finally, if you have declared yourself to be a member of this congregation specifically, desiring to take part in the work & worship here, then you **MUST** bring yourself to the meeting. It is your meeting! Would anyone say that they are hosting a party and not attend? Certainly not!

Beyond one's own self, what should we bring to a gospel meeting, and why? Well, even though the lessons will be presented here at the building, and we always try to make sure plenty are provided here, how about bringing your Bible? After all, if the meeting is about studying God's Word and applying it to our lives, would it not make sense to bring the very thing that these lessons will be centered around? Bring a Bible that you can easily read to follow along with the Scriptures that are cited, to ensure that what is taught really comes from the Bible instead of just taking a man's word for it. We are reminded of the Bereans, "now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so (Acts. 17:11)."

The next thing you should bring is someone with you. Are you a parent? Bring your children. Are you in school? Bring your classmates. Do you work outside the home? Bring your coworkers. We can also bring our friends and neighbors. John 4:28-30 states, "So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to Him." Can we say that we are as excited as she was to learn and tell others about Jesus? We talked earlier about how encouraging it is to bring ourselves to the meeting; how much more encouraging will it be to bring others and help them come to Christ.

In addition to all of this so

far, one thing that you should never be without at a gospel meeting is a good attitude. Simply put, it is not enough to just bring yourself and fill a pew. You must be ready & willing to pay attention to the lesson. Make sure that you are not distracted by the events of the day or thinking about what you would like to do after the service is over. Sadly, some are willing to pay attention yet do not have the right attitude; what I mean is that their heart is not open or receptive. Oh, sure, they could tell you what the preacher said in his lesson; but they walked out of the service that night not having learned anything or grown spiritually.

Having a good attitude is not limited to being attentive and having a humble heart; those things are important, and they are personal, on the individual level. Yet there is a kind of good attitude that is more than just between us and the Lord. What about the attitude you have towards others in attendance? Do you greet them? Do you speak with them with a smile on your face? Facial expressions & body language can either turn people off or make them feel welcome. "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (Col. 3:12-13)

Maintaining a good attitude and treating others with kindness and respect is essential if you want to reach the goals we talked about earlier, namely encouraging those around us and teaching them

about God's Word. I had the following said to me once, and it has proven to be very profound: "People will not care how much you know until they know how much you care." If we see very few visitors this week, or if the visitors we do see do not come back again, one possible reason why is because they did not feel the love that should exist in our congregation!

A good comparison we can make with all of this is a potluck-style dinner. If only a couple people bring something, then there will not be much of a dinner. However, if everybody brings something to the table, then there is plenty! So the question remains: what will you bring? Bringing your Bible, an attentive ear, a gentle heart, and especially bringing a friend or neighbor shows forethought. Contrast that with someone who "just shows up." They have not prepared, and have barely brought themselves. They are distracted and as such probably serve as a distraction to others. Which will you be, this week? Friday night will be here before we know it, and then our opportunity to make this meeting a success will be gone. Do not let it pass you by!

Pray that our meeting go well. Pray that someone who desperately needs to hear the truth will hear it preached. Pray that we all learn & become better, become more like Christ. And as we've been saying, do not come empty-handed. If you do, it is likely that you will leave empty-handed as well. Bring your heart & mind to worship God and study His Word!

Jarred Currence

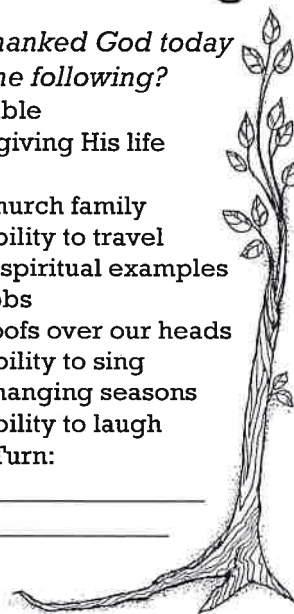
dear God,  
thanks for this  
beautiful life  
and forgive me if  
i dont love it  
enough.

*Have you thanked God today  
for any of the following?*

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- The ability to travel
- Good spiritual examples
- Our jobs
- The roofs over our heads
- The ability to sing
- The changing seasons
- The ability to laugh
- Your Turn:

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# Christian Q&A

*Dan Marton has been a member at the Wellsburg church of Christ for about eight years.*

**What is your favorite hymn that we sing? Why?**

"I'll Fly Away", for two reasons: I've heard so many renditions of it, and also the message of the song, that one day we'll fly away and be in Heaven. It's a great thought to have.

**What individual from the Bible do you most look up to? Why?**

Paul, because he had a lot of fortitude. Jesus understood the suffering he was going to go through, but he was God. Paul understood the suffering he was going to through but he was only human, yet he still endured it. I relate to him because of the way he was converted.

**What do you want others to know about your religion?**

Two things: the faith I profess and practice is found in the Scriptures and is rooted in what God has commanded of us and told us of who He is and what He wants us to do, and second, that I found a faith that flies in the face of the fleshly desires & wants that we all have and nurtures the spiritual development of an individual. That type of faith is what we have as an example throughout the Scriptures.

**What is your favorite Bible verse? Why?**

Psalms 1; it's a constant reminder of how one should behave as a Christian.



**What makes you a strong believer in your faith?**

The complete nature of the Bible and how it's put together and how it's very honest, true, and real to the people in it.

**What is an effective way that you spread God's Word? Why is this effective?**

I use the Scriptures and I use my experience & teaching through social work to approach people, to listen to them honestly, withholding judgment on what they say, and being honest & up front with what the Bible teaches.

**What advice would you give someone who is new to the Church?**

John 8:31-32, "If you continue in my word, then you are truly disciples of mine, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."