

How To Have A Successful Meeting

Intro: Tit. 3:1 “¹ Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,” These words of Paul to his son in the common faith, Titus, can well be applied to each of us in reference to our coming meeting. The time for its beginning is almost here and every member of this congregation should be vitally interested in it, and thus, in this lesson.

- 1 Some preparation for its success has already been made.
- 2 However, other preparation is needed.

I. LET’S STUDY FIRST THE QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY.

A. Too often we place the responsibility for the seeming success or failure of a meeting upon the evangelist doing the preaching.

1. To be sure, a grave responsibility rest upon his shoulders.
 - a. 2 Tim. 4:1-2 “¹ I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”
 - b. Notice the great commission.
 - c. 1 Cor. 1:21 “²¹ For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
 - d. Rom. 1:16-17 “¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
 - e. 1 Cor. 15:1-4 “¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”
 - f. Acts 20:20 “²⁰ And how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,” (must be courageous)
 - g. Acts 20:27 “²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.” (must be prepared)
 - h. It is his responsibility to preach the word without fear, evasion or compromise: Addition, subtraction, or substitution.
 - (1) 1 Pet. 4:11 “¹¹ If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
 - (2) He has a greater responsibility than the President of the USA.
2. Most preachers recognize this responsibility and do their utmost to fulfill it.

B. However, the success of his efforts can be greatly diminished if each of us do not recognize and fulfill our own personal responsibilities.

C. What are our obligations in this respect?

II. WE SHOULD DESIRE THE MEETING’S SUCCESS.

- A. Do we? Some seemingly look upon it as a necessary evil with which they must contend.
- B. In such a desire we are, in reality, desirous of the success of God and His Word.

- C. **If our desire is great enough we will do all within our power to make the meeting successful.**
- D. **This is the foundation: if the desire is there the rest will naturally follow. cf. Rom. 10:1**
 “¹ Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”

III. PRAY EARNESTLY FOR THE MEETING

- A. **This is only natural: we ever pray for that which we truly desire.**
- B. **Too, one cannot pray earnestly for something and be indifferent to it, not work to accomplish that for which we pray.**
 - 1. Pray for the lost: the individual.
 - 2. Pray for the preacher.

IV. OUR ATTITUDE DURING THE MEETING WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ITS SUCCESS OR FAILURE.

- A. **Diligently invite others: a grave responsibility.**
 - 1. Our mission is to bring others to Christ.
 - 2. The great commission.
- B. **Attend every service.**
 - 1. It’s not the preacher’s meeting, it’s ours.
 - 2. How can we expect others to attend if we do not?
 - 3. This is one of the greatest contributing factors to success.
- C. **Be prompt to all services: show your respect and interest to others.**
- D. **Sit down front and to the center of the pews: allow our visitors to find a ready seat.**
 - 1. Allow those who are possible subjects to the invitations to sit on the outside.
 - 2. Souls have been lost because members have failed in this respect.
- E. **Reverence God and His Word during the services: pay attention; do not scramble for the song book as the sermon draws close to its conclusion cf. Heb. 12:28** ^{“28} Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:”
- F. **Let our singing be from the heart:**
 - 1. Convince the outsiders in scriptural vocal music.
 - 2. Follow the leader.
- G. **Let us be friendly.**
- H. **Let us have nothing but words of praise for the meeting: be sold yourself and you will sell others.**
- I. **We have been speaking specifically of our meeting, but these principles should ever govern us as we strive to make the Lord’s work successful.**

Conclusion: Finally, let us prepare our minds for a personal acceptance of the truth. (Acts 17:11 ^{“11} These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”) If an erring member or a non-Christian do not be led into thinking you must await the meeting before obeying the truth. Procrastination is deadly!