

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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THE GOSPEL MEETING IS OVER. NOW WHAT?

Larry R. Ping II

The Gospel Meeting for which we planned and to which we looked forward has now come and gone. We feasted upon the precious Word of God (II Tim. 2:15). We prayed and sang (Php. 4:6; Col. 3:16). We assembled with members of God's family hailing from several different areas (Eph. 3:20). We had visitors who are not yet members of the Lord's body who heard the Gospel preached (Rom. 10:17). The question for us now is this...now what? Consider these things.

1) Let Us Continue To Expect Book, Chapter and Verse Preaching and Teaching. The meeting week was full of pure Gospel preaching (Rom. 10:14-17). Those who preached did so as the "oracles of God" (Pet. 4:11). As we continue to work together, let us dedicate ourselves to the untainted preaching of God's Word (II Tim. 4:2). This should always be the expectation!

2) Let Us Continue To Sing With The Spirit And The Understanding. Such is commanded in I Cor. 14:15. The singing during the meeting week was excellent. It was a source of great encouragement (Rom. 14:19). This should continue. Did you know good, involved Gospel singing is a sign of an alive, happy group of God's people (Jam. 5:13)? Let this be seen in us.

3) Let Us Continue To Pray For This Local Work's Success. I was impressed by the prayers throughout the meeting week. Many pleas were made to God for the growth of First City Church of Christ. I am thankful for this, as we should be praying people (I Thess. 5:17). We should desire spiritual growth (I Pet. 2:2; II Pet. 3:18). Numerical growth will come as the seed is planted and watered (I Cor. 3:6). Every prayer offered should involve an appeal for God's rich blessings.

4) Let Us Continue To Invite Others To Be With Us. Often, there is a tendency to only invite others to services when a Gospel meeting is being conducted. Certainly, that is good. But let us carry on offering others a hearty invitation to study and worship with us. Did you know some do not come simply because they were not invited? Believe it.

5) Let Us Continue To Be Excited About This Work. When there are large crowds during meetings such as last week, and then normal returns, there is the temptation to grow weary and discouraged. Let this not be so! There is much cause for rejoicing (Php. 4:4). The work last week reached far wider than any one of us can understand. Together, we labor in an immovable and steadfast fashion (I Cor. 15:58). Have eyes of faith (II Cor. 5:7) and look to the bright future of the Lord's work in Vincennes, IN!

GOLD RUSH AND GOLD FEVER

Johnie Paul Edwards (6/17/1993)

In late January 1848 gold was discovered by James Marshall as he worked on John Sutter's sawmill at Coloma, California. The news of gold in California began to spread across the nation and as the word leaked out, a "gold rush" erupted in northern California. "Gold fever" raged eastward and by 1849 crowds of gold seekers were headed west on the trails, others by sea, making helter-skelter marches for California. These "forty-niners" turned California into a land of untamed mining camps and boom towns. Boom-town California soon became a land of violence. Gold fever led to claim jumping, ambushing and murder! American miners looked on each other with dislike and distrust.

Now here we are, nearly a century and a half later and things really have not changed very much. (Have you noticed the lines at the supermarket to buy lottery tickets?) Man continues to eagerly pursue that which is to be shunned, to the eternal loss of his own soul.

The Love of Money Is the Root of All Evil

This "gold fever" that has been afflicting mankind for generations is nothing more than the "love of money" (1 Tim. 6:10). The assertion is not concerning money, which, is neither good nor bad in itself, but concerning the love of money. It is really a root-sin, for it leads to care, fear, malice, deceit, oppression, envy, bribery, perjury, and contentiousness. Surely men today need no proof of the fact that men and women will commit any sin or crime for money. Louisa Clapp produced what historians now consider to be the best accounts of gold-rush life ever written. In her "Gold-Rush Chronicler" she described the violence. "In a short space of twenty-four days," she wrote in July of 1852, "We have had murders, fearful accidents, bloody deaths, a mob, whippings, a hanging, an attempt at suicide and a fatal duel." A root of all evil lies in one with the love of money. There is no kind of evil to which a man may not be led through an absorbing greed for money. This passion, this covetousness, is to be "put to death" (Col. 3:5).

They That Will be Rich Fall Into Temptation and a Snare

Paul said, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition" (1 Tim. 6:9). The idea is that some desire to be rich; will to be rich at any cost and in haste (Prov. 28:20). The money-lover, by putting a false value upon money, makes it a snare and an instrument of hurt to himself and others. Jesus spoke of those who "trust in riches" (Mk. 10:24). The love of money often leads one into impiety and crime, and through them to sorrows and perdition. Greed for the wages of unrighteousness urged Balaam on to his destruction (2 Pet. 2:15). Greed for money made Judas a thief, a traitor, and a murderer of the Lord. This desire to be rich is only a snare, set by the devil (1 Tim. 3:7) to entrap us in sin.

Godliness and Contentment Is Great Gain

Paul wrote, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. . . And having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (1 Tim. 6:6,8). The godly man is rich indeed, for he has acquired riches, which, unlike the riches of this world, he can take away with him (compare Lk. 12:31-34). We have good reason to be content. We brought nothing into this world and can carry nothing out! Instead of reaching after worldly riches, procure the true wealth, and become rich in righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and meekness (1 Tim. 6:11).

Avoid the "fever" that leads to "helter-skelter" marches to the supermarket for lottery tickets by putting your trust in the living God "who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" (1 Tim. 6:17).

FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETING TIMES (EST)

MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

2720 Battery Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

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SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm