

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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HOURS OF THE BIBLE

Larry R. Ping II

The Bible, in its majesty, offers details which are often over-looked. Among those unnoticed elements are the hours of which the Bible speaks, and the important lessons which can be learned from them. Consider.

1) The Same Hour.

This phrase occurs 15 times in God’s Word. It carries with it the idea of immediacy. Three young, faithful captive Hebrews refused to bow down to an idol. The king threatened by saying “the same hour” you will “be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace” (Dan. 3:6,15). Later, Belshazzar hosted a party, but at “the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace” (Dan. 5:5). His kingdom would soon be taken from him. The New Testament tells of the conversion of the Philippian jail-keeper. After hearing the Gospel preached, the Bible

declares at “the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway” (Acts 16:33). Obedience to God’s plan is something which calls for immediacy!

2) The Eleventh

Hour. Jesus spoke a parable regarding a “householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard” (Matt. 20:1). He hired at different intervals of the day, including some in the “eleventh hour” (Matt. 20:6,9). We use the phrase “the eleventh hour” to indicate how one might wait until the last minute to do something. While it is good to do good things early as possible (Eccl. 12:1), may we not discount those who, later in life, realize, accept, and respond to the Gospel. It is not my place, nor yours, to declare one who obeys later in life as invalid. Jesus said the one who “believeth” and is “baptized” will be saved (Mk. 16:16). Period!

3) The Hour of the

Lord’s Return. Jesus stated regarding the date of His return, “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only” (Matt. 24:36).

4) The Hour of

Betrayal. Jesus affirmed “Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners” (Mk. 14:41).

5) The Hour of

Prayer. “Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour” (Acts 3:1). We are to be a people who “Pray without ceasing” (I Thess. 5:17). We should make time to pray, as did David (Psa. 55:17).

6) The Hour of

Temptation. To the church in Philadelphia Jesus said, “I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation” (Rev. 3:10). Temptation is common to all men (I Cor. 10:13).

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Larry R. Ping II

Gospel meetings have been occurring for a long time. Years ago, such meetings lasted three weeks. Over time, they shrunk to eight days, then six and now many groups of God's people (for various reasons) have four day or weekend meetings. No matter the length, the reasons for such meetings have not changed. Here are some of those.

1) Increased Opportunities for the Presentation of God's Word. Preaching is God's chosen method of transporting His Word to believers (I Cor. 1:21; Rom. 10:14-17). As the Word is more often preached, the opportunities to save the lost increase. This is the primary reason for Gospel Meetings, to offer the lost additional occasions to examine God's Word.

2) Increased Opportunities for Needed Encouragement. There is not a Christian living that

does not need encouragement and edification. A Gospel Meeting offers a prime time to receive and to give the building up necessary to sustain spiritual health. Paul commanded "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19).

3) Increased Opportunities To Praise and Pray to God. Certainly, we should be daily praising and praying to God, yet there is something special about collectively doing it as God's people. A Gospel meeting is a terrific time to undertake such actions. Many songs are sung, and numerous prayers are offered during a typical Gospel meeting. When one sings, prays, and listens to the Word of God, growth cannot help but occur (I Pet. 2:2; II Pet. 3:18).

Such an opportunity, Lordwilling, will be presented at FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST not long from hence. We pray and hope you, if able,

will come and feast with us. Below are the details of the upcoming meeting!

DATES

July 20-24, 2020
7:00 pm each evening (EST)

TITLES/PREACHERS

Monday, July 20th
"What is the Church of Christ?"
(Larry R. Ping II)

Tuesday, July 21st
"What is Right with the Church of Christ?"
(Johnie Edwards)

"The Authority of the Lord's Church"
(Larry R. Ping II)

"Locating the Lord's Church through Prophecy"
(John Isaac Edwards)

"What is the Work of the Lord's Church?"
(Larry R. Ping II)

We pray God will bless the work in this effort. May the planted and watered seed cause God to give the increase (I Cor. 3:6)!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY
Bible Study – 10:00 am
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study – 7:00 pm