Five Ingredients for a Good Gospel Meeting

Acts 10:17-33

Introduction:
A. The day of Pentecost and this day were two great days for the church.
B. The meeting at Cornelius’ house was great.
   1. It produced the first Gentile Christians.
   2. It contains five ingredients for a good gospel meeting.

Discussion:

II. Good Preaching.
A. Cornelius arranged for good preaching — Peter (vv. 17-18; 11:13).
B. Good preaching puts focus in right place (11:14).
C. Good preaching has threefold purpose:
   1. Save the lost.
      a. Alien sinners (Mk. 16:15, 16).
      b. Fallen Christians (Jas. 5:19, 20).
   2. Strengthen the saved (2 Tim. 4:2-4).
D. “Good preacher” and “good speaker” may not be the same (I Cor. 1:4-5)

III. Fervent Prayer.
A. This meeting was a result of fervent prayer (v. 2, 31).
B. All gospel meetings need much praying.
   1. For the speaker — his preaching and well-being (2 Thess. 3:1, 2; Eph. 6:10)
      Pray that he speak as he ought rather criticizing and apologizing when he does.
   2. For the lost (Rom. 10:1)

IV. Receptive Audience.
A. Cornelius prepared a receptive audience for Peter (vv. 24, 27, 33).
B. Good preaching and fervent prayers means little without a receptive audience.
C. Look who was included in this audience.
   1. The one who arranged the meeting — Cornelius.
   2. The friends and relatives called together by Cornelius.
   3. “Many who had come together”.

V. Sincere Hospitality.
A. Hospitality surrounded meeting.
   1. Simon extended hospitality to Peter (v. 32).
   2. Peter extended hospitality to messengers (v. 23).
   3. Cornelius’ family extend hospitality to Peter (v. 48)
B. Hospitality enhances any gospel meeting.
   1. A cordial reception at the services.
   2. Invitations into homes — more than just needs met, but great association.

VI. Magnification of God.
A. God and not man magnified at Cornelius’ house (vv. 25, 26, 46).
B. Too much focus on the man, too little this message.
   1. Not so much his education and training, but source of his message (Acts 4:13).
   2. Not so much his delivery, but what he delivers (cf. 2 Cor. 10:10).
C. Remember it is God who gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:7, 9).

Conclusion:
A. A good meeting requires extra effort.
B. A good meeting requires combined effort.