THE CHALLENGE OF A GOSPEL MEETING  
Romans 1:16-17

INTRODUCTION:
1. Today we begin our series of Gospel Meetings, which I trust will be a benefit to the church here.
   A. I can honestly say that I am happy to be with this good church for this series of meetings.
2. In view of this, in our lesson this hour we want to discuss The Challenge of a Gospel Meeting.
   A. You see there are several challenges that comes with a meeting such as this one.

BODY:
1. A GOSPEL MEETING IS A CHALLENGE TO OUR FAITH IN THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL  
   A. Romans 1:16-17
   B. Do we believe that the gospel will save men today?
      1. Do we believe that it has the power to change lives today?
      2. Are there those people that we feel that the gospel will do them no good?
   C. If so, it is an indication that we believe that the gospel has not lost the power of the first century gospel.
      1. We need to accept the challenge that the gospel is powerful enough to save all men - 2 Peter 3:9.
   D. We should do everything in our power to present the gospel to all that we know this week.

2. A GOSPEL MEETING IS A CHALLENGE TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE CHURCH TO WORK  
   A. Nothing will succeed without work.
      1. This is true of a Gospel Meeting - 1 Corinthians 15:58.
      2. Too many people have drifted into the idea that a Gospel Meeting can be successful by running an ad in the paper and making a few announcements.
      A. These should be done but by themselves the meeting will fail.
   B. Brethren, if a meeting is not worth working for it is not worth having.
      1. It is the job of every member of this congregation to work to see that this meeting is a success.

3. A GOSPEL MEETING IS A CHALLENGE TO OUR INTEREST  
   A. This meeting will show where our hearts are - Matthew 6:21.
   B. To be a Christian is to be interested in the lost.
      1. If you have loved ones who are lost you need to tell them about this meeting.

4. A GOSPEL MEETING IS A CHALLENGE TO OUR INFLUENCE  
   A. Have you been letting your light shine in this community? - Matthew 5:14-16.
   B. Sometimes people say, “Well, I just can't get anyone to come.”
      1. Why not?
      2. Is your influence that bad?

5. A GOSPEL MEETING IS A CHALLENGE TO THE DEVIL  
   A. It is saying to the Devil “You are in for a fight this week and we are not going to
give in.”
  1. We need to be pressing the battle against him.
  B. He is trying to destroy you, don't let him - 1 Peter 5:8.
  C. He will do everything in his power to get you to stay home this week.
  1. I challenge you not to let him win.

6. A GOSPEL MEETING IS A CHALLENGE TO ERROR
   A. Error and false doctrine are the right-hand tools of the Devil - Ephesians 4:14.
   B. In this meeting the pure and unadulterated gospel will be preached and error opposed.
      1. Let us be determined to back up the truth without fear.
      2. Too often when the truth is preached brethren start apologizing for it.
         A. Don't you dare apologize for any truth that I say.
         B. That will kill this meeting.
   C. Let us not be afraid to stand for the truth - Proverbs 23:23.
      1. I challenge you!

7. A GOSPEL MEETING IS A CHALLENGE TO THOSE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST
   A. A meeting turns the light of the gospel on the lives of non-Christians, and
      challenges them to look at their lives - Acts 2:23, 37.
   B. It is a challenge to non-Christians to give up their sins.
      1. Each of us has sinned but we do not have to continue in it - Romans 3:23.
   C. Study Romans 6 and you can see that you can overcome your sin before it is too late.

8. A GOSPEL MEETING IS A CHALLENGE TO BACKSLIDERS
   A. It is a challenge to the worldly and careless member of the church to return to the
      safety of the fold.
      1. It is a challenge to the non-faithful to understand their relationship to the Lord
         and the church.

CONCLUSION:
1. The day of the gospel meeting is not dead.
   A. Churches may be dead but the gospel is not - Hebrews 4:12.
2. I want to challenge each of us to do all that we can to support this meeting.