

The First Gospel Meeting

John Isaac Edwards

Acts 2 records the first gospel meeting. Let's take a look.

1) **The Day.** The first gospel meeting occurred on "...the day of Pentecost..." (Acts 2:1). "Pentecost" is not the name of a church, but was a day. Also known as "...the feast of weeks..." (Dt. 16:16), Pentecost came fifty days after the Passover, upon the first day of the week, at which the firstfruits were offered unto the Lord (Lev. 23:15-17).

2) **The Audience.** This was an opportune time for the first gospel meeting to take place as Pentecost brought together "...devout men, out of every nation under heaven" (Acts 2:5). In the audience were those who had crucified the Son of God (Acts 2:22-23).

3) **The Preachers.** The preaching in the first gospel meeting was done by the apostles of Christ. They had been commissioned, "Go ye into all the world, and

preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:15-16). This world-wide commission was first executed in Acts 2. The setting finds the apostles in Jerusalem waiting for the promise of the Father, the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:2-8; Lk. 24:47-49). Acts 2:4 records concerning the apostles, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). All of the apostles spoke in the first gospel meeting (Acts 2:6-8, 11). Only Peter's sermon is recorded.

4) **The Sermon.** Peter's sermon is recorded in Acts 2:22-36. *The sermon was short and simple.* It could be written on a postcard. Sermons do not need to be long and involved to be effective. *The sermon put Jesus at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end.*

Peter preached "...Jesus of Nazareth..." (Acts 2:22). He preached His life, His death, His resurrection, and His exaltation. *The sermon was Scripture-filled.* He quoted the Old Testament Scriptures and applied them to Christ. *The sermon was personal.* Peter did not preach in vague generalities; he was specific. "...Jesus, whom ye have crucified" (Acts 2:36).

5) **The Results.** The kind of preaching done in the first gospel meeting brought forth the response, "...Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). The answer: "...Repent, and be baptized...for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38). "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41). "...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47).

What a great gospel meeting!

What the Gospel Can Do for You

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Have you thought about what the gospel of Christ can do for you? It can:

1) **Beget You.** Jesus taught that it is necessary to be born again to enter the kingdom (Jn. 3:3-7). It is through the gospel that we are begotten or brought forth. Paul wrote, "...for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel" (1 Cor. 4:15).

2) **Save You.** Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Rom. 1:16). Ephesians 1:13 mentions "...the gospel of your salvation..." (Eph. 1:13). The Corinthians were saved by the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-2), when they "...hearing believed, and were baptized" (Acts 18:8).

3) **Bless You.** Blessing is associated with the gospel. Paul told the Romans, "And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 15:29). Through the gospel one can enjoy "...all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3).

4) **Stablish You.** There is a real need for us to be "...stablished in the faith..." (Col. 2:7). Romans 16:25 teaches, "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ..."

5) **Make You a Partaker of the Promise in Christ.** Writing the Ephesians Paul declared, "That the Gentiles should be

fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel" (Eph. 3:6). 2 Timothy 1:1 speaks of "...the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus." John stated, "And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life" (1 Jn. 2:25).

6) **Give You Hope in Heaven.** Colossians 1 speaks of "...the hope of the gospel" (v. 23). The gospel hope is the heavenly hope. "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel" (v. 5). Hope is a sure and stedfast anchor of the soul (Heb. 6:18-19).

The gospel can do all this for you, if you will hear, believe and obey the gospel (Rom. 10:13-17).

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