

# The Old Paths

Volume 21, Issue 10

May 4, 2014

## “A Big Thank You & Some Thoughts”

Jarrold Jacobs

**O**ur gospel meeting with brother David McPherson concluded on Friday night. As we reflect on the week, I wanted to take a moment and say “thank you” for ....

- ◆ Showing interest in the souls of friends, loved ones, and neighbors and inviting them to the gospel meeting.
- ◆ Showing interest in the gospel by coming and supporting this meeting last week with your presence and prayers to God.
- ◆ The hospitality shown to brother McPherson and his family, as well as to me and my family this last week. How kind you are!
- ◆ Thank you for being zealous in getting the word out. I am keenly aware of the efforts some brethren have made to give people gospel meeting flyers, and encourage those of the community to come each evening and hear the gospel preached.
- ◆ Our gratitude is extended to brother Dye for leading our songs all week. Thank you!

Brethren, I hope this week has made it clear that a gospel meeting requires everyone’s participation if it is to be successful. This meeting was a success because YOU worked at

it!

Brother McPherson did his part in preaching the gospel (II Tim. 4:2). He unselfishly and unashamedly proclaimed the whole counsel of God this week (Acts 20:27). Brethren, this is the kind of preaching necessary for standing strong in the Lord and being grounded in the truth. We ought to be thankful to God for His providence in allowing brother McPherson to be here. Yet, we have to live up to our responsibilities as well. Now that we know the truth, what will we do with it? Will we hoard it up for ourselves, or will we be active in spreading God’s word to others (II Tim. 2:2)? Will we apply the truth we heard to ourselves, or will we ignore it and continue to do as we please? Will we move forward, striving to live ever-closer to our Lord, and to tell others about salvation in Christ and being His child? How wonderful it is to see what can happen when we set our minds to spreading the gospel in this area.

Let’s not stop this work simply because our gospel meeting has ended. May this gospel meeting serve as, among other things, a “jump start” in our spiritual lives. We have opportunities daily to tell others the truth and lead them to Christ. Let us take the lessons we have learned from brother McPherson and apply them to our daily lives! Though the meeting has ended, what is stopping us from inviting a friend or neighbor to

services this week? Nothing is stopping us but our own fear and/or neglect (Rev. 21:8; Jn. 9:4). Let us get rid of this attitude and resolve today to let others know of the gospel. Let us be like Andrew and Philip, and bring people in contact with the message of Christ while there is still time and opportunity (Jn. 1:40-45).

At times, we have sung the song, “I want to be a soul-winner for Jesus every day...”. Did we mean it? Do we mean the words we speak when we sing, “Whate’er you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord”? If we do, then let us be busy in fulfilling what we promised the Lord that we would do! Solomon said, “*Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few... When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. Let not your mouth lead you into sin ...*” (Ecc. 5:2, 4-6). Let us heed these wise words!

The results of this gospel meeting will be felt for some time, for God’s word will not return to Him void (Isa. 55:11). The word has been planted (Lk. 8:11; I Cor. 3:6), and if we will water it, God will give the increase (I Cor. 3:6)!

Will this meeting give us renewed strength and zeal to live by the gospel and spread it to others, or will we simply turn a deaf ear to what was said? The choice is yours. Please choose wisely according to the Bible standard!

# After Our Gospel Meeting ...

Jarrold Jacobs

**N**ow that our brother David McPherson has finished his gospel meeting with us, we are left with the word of God commended to us (Acts 20:32). Will we continue to “water” it (I Cor. 3:6)? Will we allow the cares of this life to “choke” out the word of God in our lives (Matt. 13:22)? Let us take a few minutes and see what we can do with the word that was preached last week.

## Water The Seed

The seed that has been planted is the word of God (Lk. 8:11). Just as water is necessary for physical life, so also water is necessary for our spiritual lives. This is one of the reasons that we read, “*I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the growth*” (I Cor. 3:6). After the apostle Paul had planted the seed (Word of God), Apollos encouraged these brethren by teaching them more about the will of God and encouraging them to continue in the truth. To further illustrate this, remember that Christ encourages us to drink of the “*living water*” so we will never thirst (Jn. 4:10, 14, 6:35; Matt. 5:6). Let us water the seed so that it can take root and grow strong!

## Practice What We Have Learned

Our efforts in this gospel meeting will be in vain if we do not practice what we have learned. With this in mind, consider Ezra. Ezra is a man who stands as a good example of practicing what he learned. The Bible says, “...*Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel*” (Ezra 7:10). Notice the order in this verse: 1) Ezra set or pre-

pared his heart for the work. 2) Ezra studied the law of the Lord. 3) Ezra did it. 4) Ezra taught Israel God’s statutes. Ezra got the order right! He did not try to practice or obey something he had not learned. Nor was he disobedient to what he had learned! He first learned it, and then he did it. The description of Christ on earth is very similar to Ezra (Acts 1:1). Since we have the examples of both Ezra and Christ recorded for our learning, may we do the same! Once we know what God’s word says, let us do it. Let us not be hypocrites! Now that we have heard God’s word, let us practice it!

## Teach Others The Truth

Notice that Ezra did not stop at simply practicing what he had learned. He also taught others the truth he had learned (Ezra 7:10). He did not teach what he did not know. He did not teach others to do something that he refused to do. He obeyed God, and then taught others to do the same. In the New Testament, we see the apostle Paul doing this (I Cor. 9:27). Of course, the greatest example is Jesus. Notice that He not only obeyed God, but also taught the truth. Luke wrote, “*The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach*” (Acts 1:1). We have a responsibility to teach others the

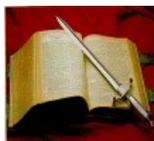
truth that we have learned. Again, Paul wrote, “*and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also*” (II Tim. 2:2). Jesus told His disciples to “*teach all nations*” (Matt. 28:19), and “*preach the gospel to every creature*” (Mk. 16:15). Is there any doubt that Jesus thinks teaching others is important?

## Pray

Prayer is a powerful weapon in the arsenal of the Christian. It is a vital part of the armor of the Christian (Eph. 6:18). Are we using it as we should? Let us do as the letter to the Ephesians says and “*pray always*”. Let us pray to God for an open door to spread the truth we have learned this last week (II Thess. 3:1). Pray that we might take the things we have learned and apply them to our lives, so that we are not like the Hebrews who had learned, but needed to be taught again (Heb. 5:12-14). Pray for opportunities to speak with others about the truth we learned this week so we can bring more lost people to Christ. Let us spend time in prayer thanking God for His word, and for the fact that it is understandable to men (Eph. 3:4). Put simply, let us “*pray without ceasing*” (I Thess. 5:17).

## Now that the meeting is over, WHAT WILL YOU DO???

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**I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!  
Come and meet with the church of Christ in Caneyville.  
Location: 103 N. Main Street Caneyville, KY**

### Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study - - - - - 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship - - - - - 10:45 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship - - - - - 5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study - - - - - 7:00 p.m.

Watch:

“The Ancient Landmark” Television Show airs on You Tube ([www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994](http://www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994)) and Insight Cable, channel 6

Listen:

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