



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## We are Having a Gospel Meeting

What does “we are having a gospel meeting” mean?

It means we will be...

### **WORSHIPING GOD TOGETHER** on a daily basis

⇒ “speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,” Ephesians 5:19

⇒ “A Song of Ascents. Of David. I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the LORD.”” Psalms 122:1

⇒ “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42

### **STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD TOGETHER** on a daily basis

⇒ “These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Acts 17:11

⇒ “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:12-13

⇒ “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### **PROVOKING ONE ANOTHER TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS**

⇒ “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

### **SEEING OUR BRETHREN**

⇒ “Let brotherly love continue.” Hebrews 13:1

⇒ “But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;” 1 Thessalonians 4:9

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## Are You Guilty of False Advertising?

Jeff Himmel

We often say that you can’t judge a book by its cover. But the fact is that people do form opinions about us based on our appearance—including the way we dress. It has always been so. I think of Proverbs 7:10, which describes an adulterous woman wearing “the attire of a harlot.” I don’t know just what that looked like, but both that woman and the man she seduced knew exactly what it *meant*. Her clothing was an advertisement for her character.

Well, what kind of character do *your* clothes advertise? Is it the sort of character you would want to claim? Could you be guilty of false advertising?

Before answering that question, consider something the apostle Paul says about our clothing. 1 Timothy 2:9 instructs women to “adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly” (NASB). Taking for granted that these principles are important for men as well as ladies, think about the words that are used here.

- *Proper* means that which is orderly, seemly, and honorable. Paul uses the same word when he says that an overseer must be “respectable” or “of good behavior” (1 Timothy 3:2).
- *Modestly* indicates having both a sense of shame and a sense of respect toward others. The same word is rendered “reverence” in Hebrews 12:28. It is sensitivity to the effects of one’s conduct, both on oneself and on others. It is the opposite of brazenness.
- *Discreetly* refers to soundness of mind, good judgment, and self-control. It is “conduct marked by restraint” (Kittel), the product of “inner self-government” (Trench). The same word is translated “self control” in verse 15; its root occurs several times in the New Testament as “sober,” “sensible,” or “prudent” (see 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 2:2,5,6). God wants every disciple to “think so as to have sound judgment” (Romans 12:3).

These words speak not just to the kind of clothes we wear, but to the attitude of heart with which we present ourselves to others. God says that our whole outward demeanor, including our choice of what to wear, is to be based on three things: (1) a resolve to be honorable—not just among people of the world, but among Christians, and above all before God; (2) an aim not to bring shame on ourselves or cause problems for someone else; and (3) good sense and the proper control of our desires—and by extension, as much as it’s within our power, the desires of those around us.

Propriety. Modesty. Discretion. I hope those are all qualities that you value. The question is, does your choice of wardrobe clearly declare that to the world? Or does it say something else? Consider:

- Some Christian girls, who are trying to avoid sexual immorality, often dress in a way that sends a very different message to the boys around them. Ladies, if you wear clothes that advertise your body and your sexuality, then that’s where men will focus their attention. Is that really what you want? Instead, the Lord tells Christian women to emphasize their godly character (1 Timothy 2:9-10; 1 Peter 3:1ff).
- Sometimes I have seen Christians (both men and women) wearing T-shirts that glorify things no Christian should be involved in: drugs/alcohol, promiscuous sex, violence, rebellion. If you wouldn’t *do* those things, then why would you let yourself be a walking billboard for them? Is that really the impression you want to make?

Paul described the Corinthian disciples as a letter of Christ, read by all men (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). Christian, so are you. How will you show the world that Jesus lives *in* you if what is *on* you says just the opposite?

*The Plant City Planter*

## Useful

Do you consider yourself useful in the Kingdom of God?

Useful is defined as “able to be used advantageously, helpful, serviceable” (freedictionary.com)

The apostle Paul uses this word twice while writing to Timothy (2 Timothy 2:21; 4:11).

Looking at 2 Timothy 4:11 we find that Mark was useful to Paul’s execution of the work that he was called to do.

“Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” (2 Timothy 2:21)

Mark was not always considered useful in the eyes of the apostle. In Acts 15 we learn that Mark had departed the work Barnabas and Paul were doing. We are not told why but the contention between Paul and Barnabas became so strong that they went their separate ways. Barnabas took his cousin John Mark and Paul took Silas. (verses 36-41)

Thankfully we learn that Mark had later proven himself to be useful to Paul.

Are you useful in the Kingdom of God?

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