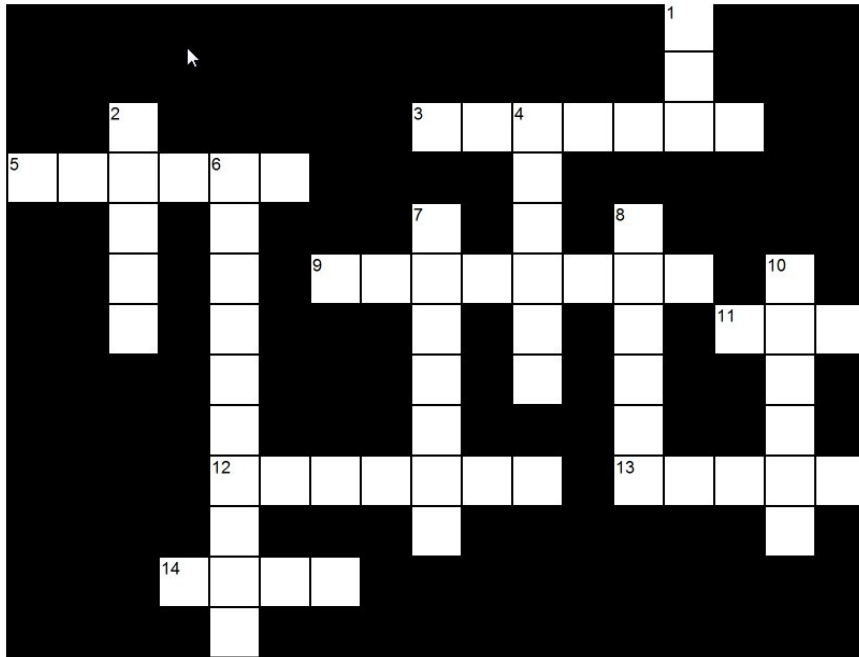


### A Bible Crossword: Matthew, Part 10

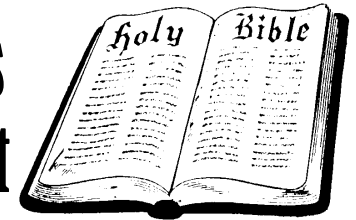


Across: 3. Jesus was anointed with fragrant oil here. 5. The tribes of earth would see the Son of Man coming on these. 9. High Priest who plotted to take and kill Jesus. 11. Tree Jesus used in a parable about recognizing the seasons. 12. What the master left his servants before journeying to a far country. 13. The son of man will set these on his right hand at judgment. 14. Men continued eating, drinking and marrying before their judgment in this man's days.

Down: 1. This would be darkened during the days of tribulation. 2. The Son of Man will set these on His left hand at judgment. 4. Jesus foretold of its destruction. 6. The disciples were to flee when they saw the abomination of this, foretold by Daniel. 7. Ten of these took lamps to meet the bridegroom. 8. Wherever the carcass is, these will be gathered. 10. Judas agreed to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of this.

—All answers can be found in Matthew 24-26a, NKJV.

## Chapman Acres church of Christ



2137 Penhall Drive NE / Huntsville, AL 35811  
256-536-5296 / [www.chapmanacreschurch.com](http://www.chapmanacreschurch.com)

### Why Have Gospel Meetings?

Gospel meetings are not what they used to be. As the years have passed, gospel meetings have become shorter and shorter. The crowds are not coming out as they once were, and those who do attend are not who they used to be. Years ago, gospel meetings filled auditoriums with non-Christians who came to hear the gospel. Today, very few non-Christians attend at all. Consequently, the subject matter of meetings has changed. Years ago, the lessons at a gospel meeting were often directed towards the lost. Today, the lessons at most gospel meetings are directed towards the brethren. At many congregations, gospel meetings have ceased to be used as an evangelistic tool for seeking and saving the lost. Since this change has taken place, is there any value in having gospel meetings? What do today's gospel meetings provide us?

#### Variety In Worship

Change isn't always a bad thing. At times our routines, even in worship, become so routine that the spirit of true worship is lost (John 4:24).

Gospel meetings break the routine. We have a different format for our services. We have a different audience in attendance. We have a different speaker presenting the gospel. The change in routine provides us an opportunity to reinvigorate ourselves and bring the spirit into our

worship.

### A Gift In The Gospel

The opportunity to hear a different speaker is important and worthy of further discussion. Audiences do tend to grow dull when hearing the same speaker for too long, but even if brethren continue to enjoy the preaching of the “home” preacher, a visiting preacher may have something different to offer.

The Apostle Paul portrayed the true spirit of evangelism when he wrote to the Romans: “For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established” (Romans 1:11). The gift of which Paul spoke may have been miraculous in nature, but in application, the point remains. All preachers are unique, and all have some special gift to offer. Gospel meetings provide the opportunity for preachers of offer their gifts and for brethren to receive them.

### An Opportunity For Hospitality

Hospitality is one of the most neglected commandments among God’s people. We recognize the necessity for obedience to most commands, but we tend to ignore the ones concerning hospitality.

Paul told the Romans to be “given to hospitality” (Romans 12:13).

Peter commanded, “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling” (1 Peter 4:9).

The writer to the Hebrews said, “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Hebrews 13:2).

All these Scriptures teach the necessity for hospitality, but

they are typically ignored. Rather than ignoring something God commands, we need to look for opportunities to be obedient to Him. Gospel meetings provide us with one such opportunity to practice hospitality.

### A Sense Of Brotherhood

Though it has become less common to have non-Christians at meetings, members from other congregations do attend frequently. Is the presence of members from other congregations actually important?

Peter said, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” (1 Peter 5:8-9). Sometimes we forget that we are part of a brotherhood of believers. We are supposed to be strengthened by the fellowship we share in Christ, and gospel meetings provide the opportunity for us come together with our brethren.

Though the times have changes, and gospel meetings have changed with them, meetings can still serve important purposes if we will take advantage of them. —RAB

### Prayer List

Keith Copeland	Herman McKenzie	Faye Seiler
Dennis Depew	Louise Moore	Gene Shannon
David Depew	Sara Nance	

### Area Meetings

Bob Hutto, Jackson Drive, October 19-24  
 Sewell Hall, Jordan Park, November 2-7  
 Kenny Moorner, Westview, November 2 -5  
 David Bonner, Pepper Road, December 5-7