

READING BULLETINS

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At the risk of being self-serving, let me say a few words about reading a church bulletin, something you are doing at this very moment. One of the memories of growing up in my parent's home is of a big pile of papers on a counter near the kitchen. This pile consisted mainly of church bulletins and gospel papers. It was a treasure trove of Bible teaching from brethren around the country. My father subscribed to these various papers and bulletins, and as a young teenager, I found them a curiosity at first, then became fascinated by this means of communicating the gospel message. I remember seeing names of gospel preachers I would later come to know and reading about important issues of doctrine and controversy among brethren. I thought it was great that brethren would spend the time and money to send out these bulletins packed with such good teaching.

Those were the days of the church bulletin, when nearly every church published one (weekly or monthly), and many mailed them to thousands of addresses all over the country. Much good was done and many Christians were saved from error because of the strong stand taken in those little papers. But things have changed. Fewer churches now spend the money and time publishing a paper bulletin. This is probably due to rising costs and decreased interest, along with the increased use of the internet. Churches that do have a bulletin provide it just for the members (though some may be sent by regular mail, email, or posted on websites). Some just use them for announcements and short quips. Brethren may feel that bulletins do little good nowadays.

I would disagree. There are still effective bulletins, paper and virtual, circulating today. This congregation has put out a bulletin for many years. If the material in it remains scriptural and applicable, it will do good, but only ***if it is read and shared***. I hope you will continue to read it and find it useful to share with others. May God bless our efforts to His glory and the salvation of lost souls!