

Who was William Sowers and what do Gospel Kingdom Church adherents believe?

William J. Sowers (1879-1952) founded the Gospel Assembly Church in Paducah, Kentucky in 1914.

Sowers believed that his gospel was a restoration of what the early church believed. His campground meetings were said to include out-of-body episodes.

The Bible says absent from the body present with the Lord (2 Co 5:8). Men don't leave their bodies and then return to them again.

The Gospel Assembly Church taught that all events occur as a result of God's decree.

The Bible teaches that men have a will and often use it to express their hatred for God. God does not decree: murder, adultery and rape.

The Gospel Assembly Church taught that God knows the entire future.

The Bible teaches that God has a plan. He is calling out a people for his namesake (Ac 15:14) and though He guides events, He does not see a future which does not yet exist.

God knows everything that is knowable that He wants to know. He has declared the end from the beginning (Is 46:10)--like a referee in a football game. He has declared that He will have the victory (Mt 16:18).

Because God is omnipotent and omniscient, He is able to make things happen according to his plan (Da 2:28). He has literal foreknowledge (Ac 2:23). Predestination means that He has determined beforehand (Ac 4:27, Ro 8:29)¹. God knows things that will happen and He use his power to bring them to pass (Is 46).

The Gospel Assembly Church taught that there were two persons in the Godhead at one time. Sowers contended that God the Father is a "a Spirit Being", Jesus, the Son is a "a Heavenly Creature" and the Holy Spirit is a manifested power or presence.

The Bible teaches that God is triune (Ge 1:1-3, 26 Jn 14:26, 15:26). All three persons of the Godhead are equal in their perfection (Pr 8:22-31, Is 40:13, 48:16) and each is everlasting (Ps 90:2).

The Gospel Assembly Church taught that there are three steps necessary for salvation: repentance and conversion, water baptism and the Holy Spirit baptism.

The Bible teaches that justification is a one-time event. Salvation is God's free gift to one who believes (Ro 5:17-21).

The Gospel Assembly Church taught that some Christians will be raptured.

The Bible teaches that all saints will be caught up (1 Thess 4:16, 17).

¹ In settled view everything occurs for God simultaneously.

The Gospel Assembly Church taught that 144,000 believers will be raptured and those not included would remain for three and one-half year of the tribulation.²

The Bible teaches that Christians have overcome (Re 12:11) and that tribulation saints (those who come to Christ after the rapture and during the tribulation) *will be overcome* (Re 13:7).

The one hundred forty-four thousand is the number sealed from the nation Israel (Re 7:4). They will be redeemed Jews who evangelize.

² Kerns, Travis. Gospel Assembly Church. Watchman Fellowship Profile. Web 1 Jan 20:
<https://www.watchman.org/profiles/pdf/gospelassemblychurchprofile.pdf>