

**Crossville Church
of Christ**

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COMPASS

**Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation**

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December 5, 2010

Elders:

Frank Bohannon

Eddie Brown

Bill Foland

Al Griffin

Jonathan Loveday

Larry McDuffee

Clyde Randolph

Deacons:

Jim Bell

Jimmy Harris

Doug Loveday

Greg Maxwell

Brian McLaughlin

Mark Roberts

Roger Smith

Minister:

Barry Kennedy

Missionaries (India):

Don Iverson

Jim Waldron

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study 9 AM

Sunday Worship 10 AM

6 PM

Wednesday 6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesdays 11AM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays 10 AM

Joyful Generation

(Youth Devotional & fellowship)

1st Sunday 7:00 PM



*“By the breath of God frost
is given: and the breadth of
the waters is straitened”
(Job 37:10).*

“A BEAUTIFUL LIFE”

Barry Kennedy

There are many great psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs used in corporate worship. In fact, one of the great attributes of New Testament worship is singing.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:16, 17).

One of the many great hymns often used is “**A Beautiful Life.**” Admittedly, this title is not as popular as the first line which reads, “Each day I’ll do a golden deed,” This song is one that produces fond memories in my mind. This was one of my grandfather’s favorite hymns, and one of the few that he would lead. There are times when we as a congregation sing this song that it is hard to hold back the emotions. Having said that, this song is more than just a family memorial. It has a very powerful spiritual message. In fact, the lyrics of this song teach the great message of Christianity.

Each Day I’ll Do a Golden Deed, By Helping Those Who Are In Need. God has given His word to help direct our lives toward Heaven (Psalm 119:105). In those instructions we are told how to treat one another, which in turn will help one to have “**A Beautiful Life.**” God’s will involves treating people the way one would want to be treated themselves. “*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets*” (Matthew 7:12). Many through the years have labeled this scripture as the “Golden Rule.” Is it any wonder that the song said, “Each day I’ll do a *GOLDEN DEED.*” Helping those who are in need should remind us of the fact that we too need help from time to time. Life has its share of difficulties, but God has made possible a “**Beautiful Life.**”

My life on earth is but a span, and so I’ll do the best I can. Every life has a way of leaving a mark upon those left behind. “*For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself*” (Romans 14:7). It is true that life is short, relatively speaking, and everyone has an appointment to keep. “*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*” (Hebrews 9:27). Life being “but a span,” is almost exactly what James said long ago. “*...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away*” (James 4:14). Knowing this to be true, based upon how many times we all have visited the funeral services of a loved one, should we not strive to do the best we can? Good deeds are not to be some sort of “bucket list” each one must perform. No, the truth is that Christians are created for good works. “*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them*” (Ephesians 2:10). Life for each one of us is to be filled with God’s works. “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven*” (Matthew 5:16).

A Beautiful Life can be summed up as a life lived in the service of almighty God. **A Beautiful Life** is one that has confidence all the way to the end. Do we truly have the confidence to sing the chorus of this great song? “***Life’s evening sun is sinking low, a few more days and I must go. To meet the deeds that I have done. Where there will be no setting sun.***”

God has made everything available for every man to have an abundant life (John 10:10), and if God offers an abundant life it must be **A Beautiful Life.** May God help us all to take hold of that beautiful life that is in Christ Jesus today (Ephesians 1:3).

Worthy of Double Honor

Matthew Crowe

One of the greatest blessings that God has given the earth is His church. In fact, God's "many-colored" wisdom is displayed by the church, giving Him the glory He deserves (Ephesians 3:10, 21). Those who are saved are located in the church (Ephesians 5:23) and are able to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:4).

However, God did not leave the church without direction. To lead His church, God's "many-colored" wisdom has seen fit to use qualified, Christian men—elders. The office of an elder is said by the apostle Paul to be "a good work" (1 Timothy 3:1). Indeed, the position of shepherding the flock of God is a work, so much so that there is Biblical authority for financial support of elders (1 Timothy 5:17-18). It is a work, but it is also a **good** work. Truly, it is the greatest work in which a man can be employed.

These facts considered, how should Christians act in response to the elders who "rule well?"

1. **Know them.** *And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you* (1 Thessalonians 5:12). Recognize them for what they are—the overseers of the flock. Know them *personally*. One of the most beautiful scenes is the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep, where mutual care and tenderness abound. This is the picture between Christians and their Master, as with Christians and their elders. As Christians, we should become close to our elders and trust in them, as sheep do to their shepherd. Likewise, elders must know the flock (Acts 20:28).

2. **Esteem them very highly.** *And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves* (1 Thessalonians 5:13). Paul did not say, "esteem them highly," but "**very** highly." It is quite difficult to express how much Paul emphasized this—the phrase is so strong it is almost redundant. It has been elsewhere translated "exceeding abundant" (Ephesians 3:20; cf. 1 Timothy 5:17). Shame on the Christian who does not think highly of his elders! They are involved in the greatest work on earth – saving people and keeping them saved! Truly, their work should be esteemed higher than **any** government official, for while they oversee earthly affairs, our elders oversee eternal affairs.

3. **Submit to them.** *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls* (Hebrews 13:17). That aforementioned esteem must show itself in action and deeds from loving hearts. An army of generals never won a battle, and a church full of "would-be" elders will never get the work done. As the old saying goes, we do not need "all chiefs and no Indians." For a church to rebel against its qualified elders is to rebel against God, not men (1 Samuel 8:5-7), because our elders "*watch for your souls.*" Elders will give account for how they lead and Christians will give account for how they submit.

