

## Crossville Church of Christ

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# COMPASS

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

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March 6, 2011

### 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:

Don Iverson

Jim Waldron

(India)

### 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



**“If any man will come after me, let  
him deny himself, and take up his  
cross, and follow me”  
(Matthew 16:24).**

# ONLY THE OBEDIENT

Barry Kennedy

Many have had difficulty with the subject of obedience. For example, how many times can one find success through reverse psychology? It is hard for many to be obedient, mostly due to the fact that pride gets in the way (Proverbs 16:18). Even in the secular world, people have come to understand the need and benefits for obedience.

Roger Staubach who led the Dallas Cowboys to the World Championship in '71 admitted that his position as a quarterback who didn't call his own signals was a source of trial for him. Coach Landry sent in every play. He told Roger when to pass, when to run and only in emergency situations could he change the play (and he had better be right!). Even though Roger considered coach Landry to have a "genius mind" when it came to football strategy, pride said that he should be able to run his own team. Roger later said, "I faced up to the issue of obedience. Once I learned to obey there was harmony, fulfillment, and victory."<sup>1</sup>

The pride of Mr. Staubach caused him to want to be his own man, yet learning to obey Coach Landry allowed him to enjoy the thrill of victory.

The spiritual walk of life differs in many ways from that of the physical. Roger Staubach may have been able to win without obeying the coaches "calls," but no one can be saved without obeying Christ. *"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"* (Hebrews 5:8-9). Therefore, **Only The Obedient** can be saved. Why?

**ONLY THE OBEDIENT LOVE THE LORD.** Jesus made this point very clear when He said, *"If ye love Me, keep My commandments"* (John 14:15). One cannot say that Jesus is the Lord of their life when they are not willing to do what He says. *"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"* (Luke 6:46). Think about this point from a parents prospective. When a Mom or Dad tells little Timmy to clean his room and he says, "NO!" Why are they upset with him? One might say, "He disrespected them." Why is it that Timmy is supposed to respect his parents? One word will sum it up, and that word is **LOVE**. The reality is that when little Timmy said, "NO!" Mom and Dad subconsciously heard, "I don't love you." Now little Timmy might never say such hateful words out right, but love is expressed more so than it is said. Jesus was saying that God deserves more than lip service. *"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me"* (Matthew 15:8). The heart is the classic image most use to describe love. If our hearts are not right with God can we say that we have love for God? Likewise, if we are not willing to obey Him, then our hearts are not right and we do not love the Lord. Therefore, only the obedient love the Lord.

**ONLY THE OBEDIENT WILL GO TO HEAVEN.** The point has already been made that one's obedience is based upon love. This point focuses on the blessing to those who do love/obey the Lord. When the apostle Paul came to the close of his life, he wrote young Timothy an inspired letter. In that letter he pointed out the fact that he was going to receive a *"crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing"* (2Timothy 4:8). Paul's confidence in his and everyone else's eternal salvation did and does require personal responsibility. Paul was faithful to the Lord. *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"* (2Timothy 4:7). This is what Paul, and Jesus as well, meant by **LOVE**.

Can we truly say that we would love His appearing right now? Are there some changes we would want to make before that great and terrible day of the Lord comes? It is hard, especially in the South, to find multitudes of people who "do not want to go to Heaven" per se. However, when one gets down to the heart of the matter, it is hard to find many people who are willing to obey God. Few are ready to fight the good fight, because few even know the course, and that same few cannot keep the faith because they have never received it (Psalm 119:105; Ephesians 6:13-18; Romans 10:17). Let's learn the lost art of obedience, because **ONLY THE OBEDIENT** love the Lord and will go to Heaven.

<sup>1</sup> www.sermonillustrations.com

## ARE WE “PLUGGED IN”?

### JASON HILBURN

One day when I was planning on heading out of the house, I checked my cell phone to see if it was charging. I saw the charging cable plugged into the phone and continued getting ready to go. When it was time to leave, I unplugged the cable from my phone, only to realize that the other end of the cable had not been plugged into the wall outlet! Although I had assumed that my battery was fully charged, the truth was that my battery was completely dead.

I am afraid that many times this same sort of thing happens with people’s “spiritual batteries.” Some brethren seem like they are only halfway plugged in, or not plugged in at all, to the Word of God or their Christian duties. Whether they realize it or not, their neglectful attitudes are causing their spiritual batteries to be very weak, or possibly even dead. The following questions are posed for our self-examination:

**Are we only halfway plugged in?** Perhaps we habitually show up late for services when we could have left earlier and arrived on time. Such actions show a lack of respect for God and our brethren, and it likely signifies a lack of desire to be present. Maybe we habitually leave before services are dismissed—not because of anything urgent, but rather so we can beat the crowd out of the parking lot, get to our favorite restaurant quicker, or because of some other worldly reasoning. Maybe we arrive on time and stay until services are dismissed, but we are only “halfway there,” with our minds on worldly things, lacking interest in what is taking place. Perhaps we only attend on Sunday mornings, or maybe we never study the Bible outside of the church’s building. If so, then we are only halfway plugged in, and our spiritual batteries are suffering.

Perhaps we are completely plugged in for normal services, but when it comes to other activities of the church, we are totally unplugged. Where are we when the congregation is holding a Gospel meeting on weeknights? Where are we when the congregation is having Vacation Bible School? Where are we when the congregation is door knocking as a group, visiting a nursing home, or doing other good works collectively? If we are physically able to be present and active, why are we not plugged in to these activities? If we are present for normal services, but choose to be absent from these other activities, then we are only half-way plugged in, and our spiritual batteries are suffering because of it. Not only that, but our brethren’s batteries are suffering from it as well. Have we considered that it is very discouraging to those who put forth effort when many in the congregation refuse to help or participate in things we are all supposed to be doing together as a family? Have we considered that our actions can drain the congregation’s spiritual batteries instead of charging them? We need to be careful that we do not deceive ourselves into thinking we are completely plugged in, when we really are not: “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (James 1:22; cf. Matthew 25).

**Are we completely unplugged?** There are some who have completely unplugged themselves from the assemblies of the saints, and in doing so, have unplugged themselves from Christ. Their spiritual batteries are dead, and their poor example and lost condition drains potential power from the entire congregation. We are commanded to assemble—not just to worship God and study His Word, but also to lovingly exhort one another to be faithful: “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25; cf. Ephesians 4:16). When our brothers and sisters fail to assemble, their batteries die, and they also fail to help “charge up” their brethren. Imagine how much more “power” a congregation would have to do good if all the brethren who have unplugged themselves would plug themselves back in!

To keep our spiritual batteries from dying, we must be active, faithful members of Christ’s church, always remaining “plugged in” to Christ through the “Power Source” He has given us—His Word (Romans 1:16; 10:17; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 4:12). If we remain connected to Christ through adherence to His Word, our spiritual batteries will be recharged day by day: “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day” (2 Corinthians 4:16; cf. Philippians 4:13).