

**Crossville Church
of Christ**

P.O. Box 211

Crossville, TN 38557

Phone

484-5297 or 484-2960

Fax 707-0025

Bible Call

707-5523 or 707-5532

COMPASS

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

www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org

Email: mainstchurch@volfirst.net

crossville_elders@volfirst.net



Elders:

Frank Bohannon

Eddie Brown

Bill Foland

Al Griffin

Jonathan Loveday

Larry McDuffee

Clyde Randolph

Deacons:

Jim Bell

Kyle Fairman

Jimmy Harris

David Kerley

Doug Loveday

Greg Maxwell

Brian McLaughlin

Mark Roberts

Roger Smith

Jon Tatum

Jason Wyatt

Jerry Wood

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

April 3, 2011

“A man that hath friends
must shew himself friendly:
and there is a friend that
sticketh closer than a
brother” (Proverbs 18:24).



CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Charles Box

Christianity is a life of responsibility. Personal responsibility is taught in the Old Testament. "Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment." (Ecclesiastes 11:9) The New Testament also teaches personal responsibility. "For each one shall bear his own load." (Galatians 6:5) Judgment will be by God's word, and based on ability plus opportunity. Each Christian has ability and opportunity and therefore each Christian has responsibility.

God's people are responsible for what they think: "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. 'Eat and drink!' he says to you, But his heart is not with you." (Proverbs 23:7) No one can do right who does not think right. Thinking determines our eternal destination. Wrong actions always grow out of wrong thinking. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication's, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." (Matthew 15:19)

God's people are responsible for what they believe: "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3-4) In a world torn with hundred of beliefs God's people are responsible for believing and doing what is right. God's word, the Bible, is the source of our faith (Romans 10:17)

God's people are responsible for what they say: "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (Matthew 12:36-37) Words can bless or hurt those touched by our lives. "What" is said and "how" it is said is the responsibility of the child of God. Your words can save or condemn, bless or hurt, cheer or discourage, lift up or pull down.

God's people are responsible for what they do: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10) Our deeds are our life. The judgment as pictured in Matthew twenty-five, should cause us to look at our deeds. What have you done for God this week?

God's people are responsible for what they give: "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings." (Malachi 3:8) Giving is a great indicator of our spiritual depth. "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38) Giving is an indication of where your heart is. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." (Matthew 6:19-20)

God's people are responsible for what they teach: "My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment." (James 3:1) Those that teach are responsible for the salvation of their own souls and of those they teach. "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you." (1 Timothy 4:16)

"Responsibility" is almost an ugly word in our world today. However, "Christian" and "responsibility" go together. One cannot be "Christian" without fulfilling "responsibility." As a Christian fulfill your responsibility!

Will you appreciate Jesus enough that you will receive Him as your Lord and Savior NOW? To become a Christian you must hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus (John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 17:30, confess Christ as Lord (Acts 8:37), and be baptized to be saved. (1 Peter 3:21). After baptism use your life to spread the glorious gospel of Christ!

ARE THERE DEGREES OF ETERNAL PUNISHMENT?

Derrick Coble

"On one occasion Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, the agnostic lecturer of the last century, was announced to give an address on Hell. He declared he would prove conclusively that Hell was a wild dream of some scheming theologians who invented it to terrify credulous people. As he was launching into his subject, a half-drunken man arose in the audience and exclaimed, 'Make it strong, Bob. There's a lot of us poor fellows depending on you. If you are wrong, we are all lost. So be sure you prove it clear and plain.'" Too many people are going to be unpleasantly surprised when they find themselves in a Devil's Hell for eternity. It isn't for a lack of warning. Jesus spoke of Hell as a place where the fire shall never be quenched (Mark 9:43; Matthew 25:41) and He warned all against the danger of being there (Matthew 5:22). It is real and it is reserved for the unrighteous (Matthew 25:46), the disobedient (2 Thessalonians 1:8), and the wicked (Psalm 9:17). But, a perplexing question is at hand. Will Hell be worse for some than others? Let the Scriptures decide:

(1) Matthew 10:14,15 "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet: Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city."

(2) Luke 12:47,48 "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

(3) Hebrews 10:29 "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"

(4) 2 Peter 2:20 "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."

Analyzing the verses above, one can only conclude that there are degrees of punishment in eternal Hell. First, the sinful homosexual lifestyle of those in Sodom and Gomorrhah caused them to suffer the vengeance of eternal fire (Jude 7). However, Jesus said it would be more tolerable for them in Hell than those lost sheep of the house of Israel who rejected their opportunity to receive the words of the apostles. Second, Jesus made it clear that the servant who presumptuously disobeys (because of the Lord's delay in His return) will be beaten with many stripes as opposed to the few stripes for those who "knew not." Third, there will be "sorer" (literally, more evil or aggravated) punishment for those who cast aside the better message of the better covenant for anything else (Hebrews 8:6). Fourth, once a person escapes the condemnation of sin by accepting the Gospel of Christ, then turns back into the sin they previously washed away, "the latter end is worse than the beginning." In other words, there is a hot place reserved in Hell for all the unbelievers for all time, and an even hotter place reserved for the Christians who have gone astray, replacing the God of Heaven with the Devil of Hell (John 8:44).