

**Crossville Church  
of Christ**  
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**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:**

<b>Ladies Bible Class</b>	
Tuesdays	11AM
<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	
Tuesdays	10 AM
<b>Joyful Generation</b>	
<b>(Youth Devotional &amp; fellowship)</b>	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM

# COMPASS

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

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July 31, 2011

## Wednesday Summer Series (2011)



# FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT,

*"Helping Christians to be ripe for the harvest."*

**July:**

**July 6:** *"Why should we bear fruit?"* David Smith, Soddy Daisy, TN.  
**July 13:** *"This is no ordinary fruit."* James Meadows, Knoxville, TN.  
**July 20:** *"LOVE, The root of the fruit."* Alan Adams, Cantonment, FL.  
**July 27:** *"JOY, The emotional fruit"* Gary Hampton, Knoxville, TN.

**August:**

**August 3:** *"PEACE, The comfort fruit."* Ben Bailey, McMinnville, TN.  
**August 10:** *"LONGSUFFERING, The fruit worth waiting for."* Byran Hatcher, Memphis, TN.  
**August 17:** *"GENTLENESS, The fruit we share with others."* Joey Davis, Atlanta, TX.  
**August 24:** *"GOODNESS, The fruit for our own good."* Kent O'Donnell, Palmerston, New Zealand.  
**August 31:** *"FAITH" The fruit that pleases God."* Clarence DeLoach, Cookeville, TN.

**September:**

**September 7:** *"MEEKNESS, The fruit that reminds us who we are"* Wally Kirby, Sequatchie, TN.  
**September 14:** *"TEMPERANCE, The fruit of self-control."* Bill Greer, Hixson, TN.  
**September 21:** *"RIPE FOR THE HARVEST, Against such there is no law."* Edward Anderson, Carthage, TN.

## OUT OF ONE FIRE AND INTO ANOTHER

**Phillip Brannon**

Recently, while out making visits, I was listening to the radio and heard a shocking report. A preacher for a very large denominational congregation had renounced his version of Christianity and had converted to Islam. The preacher had preached at the congregation for decades and even had a son who was a preacher there. Yet, for some undisclosed reason, this man had given up on Christ and had now turned to Mohammed. As I sat listening to the report, I could not help but to feel a deep sadness for the man, because he was obviously confused. Sure, he had left denominational Christianity for Islam, but, in actuality, he had left one false way to follow another false way.

Someone says, “Oh no, that is not politically correct! What gives you the right to place one religion above another?” God does! Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). With this statement (and others like it), Jesus excluded Mohammed and all other men from being mediators to God (Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5). Therefore, no one can come to God, unless he comes through Christ.

Yet, this man’s conversion to Islam was not what saddened me the most, for he could have switched, just as easily, to any other religious group or denomination of his choice, and I would still have been saddened. What saddened me most was that though this man now believed he was on the road to salvation (Islam), he was still lost, for he was still following the ways of men (Matt. 15:9). He had failed to realize that Islam, denominational Christianity, and every other religious group that is not of Christ, would not lead him to salvation, for salvation is only found in true Christianity (a system of belief devoid of denominations, sects and false teachings, and established by and under the authority of the head—Jesus the Christ [Eph. 1:22, 23; John 17:20-23; 1 Cor. 1:10]). Since denominations and other religions are made up of people who have rejected and separated from Jesus, added and taken away from Jesus, and created their own bodies and laws outside of Jesus, they fall short of the body (church) created by Jesus (Col. 1:18; Rom. 16:16). Thus, they are all doomed (Matt. 15:13-14; Gal. 1:6-9). This being true, the wisest choice the man



mentioned earlier could have made would have been to have left denominationalism and false religions altogether to become a part of true Christianity. His choice, however, like the choices of other people who leave one denomination or false religion to become a part of another false group, kept him in an unsaved (lost) state. He, in essence, had jumped out of one fire and into another!

After turning the radio off, I began to wonder what the result would have been if one of the members of the Lord’s church, the church of Christ, would have studied with this man before his conversion to Islam. Perhaps he would have left denominationalism to become a member of the body of Christ! Who knows? My wondering would only be that—wondering. Action had to be taken. I chose two courses of action: 1.) Pray that the man and others like him, who are ensnared in false religions, would have an opportunity to hear the unadulterated Word of God (Matt. 9:38); 2.) Work to make sure that they did (Mark 16:15-16)!

# SINGING AS TEACHING AND ADMONISHING

## Jim Word

While singing is a part of every worship service we have, it is one of the most often neglected parts of our worship. This statement seems contradictory. However, if we consider that all parts of our worship are to be done in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), then it is easy to see how we can do lip service in our song service without truly honoring God. Colossians 3:16 says, "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." The passage doesn't say "teaching and entertaining one another." Too many times we have the attitude that if the songs do not stir up some emotion in us, then we do not need to participate. Feelings, however, have never been a measure of truth. But to say the feelings of the worshipper are not to be considered in the song service would be a disservice, for how could we be admonished if the songs did not affect us in some way. First Corinthians 14:26 says; "...Let all things be done unto edifying." It is not hard to see that some are truly edified by our song service while others seem to look at it as a ritual that we do just to be doing something. A non-Christian once told me, "I'd love to go to church with you and I'm interested in knowing about God, but I just can't take all that singing!" I found this saddening but when I look over the faces of the congregation during the invitation song, I often wonder how many of our own members have the same attitude.

The teaching and admonishing aspect of our song service comes from the words that we sing; "ooing" and "aahing" are not words and cannot teach or admonish. This being said, the words we sing must play a very important role. Let the elders deem a song unscriptural that the congregation has been singing for years and see what happens. People will say things like, "I don't see what's wrong with it; we've been singing it for as long as I remember! It's a good song!" Why? Because they have never really considered the meaning of the words that they're singing. First Corinthians 14:15 says, "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." Notice how I said "they." What I should have said is "we" for preachers often preach on faith and love, and the steps of salvation. When you hear a sermon on music, it is usually to denounce mechanical instruments; but what about the condition of the heart? This is where God says the melody comes from (Eph. 5:19); so then we must get our heart right. Many times you will hear the song leader say something like, "To prepare our minds for the Lord's supper turn to song number..." or even "The song before our lesson..." and they choose a song that coincides with the sermon. But what about preparing your heart for the songs you sing?

Unfortunately, there are many songs even in our own song books that promote Calvinism, premillennialism, or any of a number of other "isms"; yet, if we continue to sing them, then we're teaching and admonishing one another with a song that is unscriptural. Matthew 15:8-9 is not a verse that is often used when talking about our song service however it fits in this instance. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." No one would ever consider passing the communion tray by without partaking on Sunday morning; however, many will sit idly by never parting a lip during the song service. This is not admonishing. In fact, for those of the congregation who are trying to sing with the spirit and with the understanding, it is discouraging.

Let us from this point forward determine to make our singing as important as all the other facets of our worship. Honor God with our lips in song, and then let us encourage others to do the same.