

Crossville Church of Christ

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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

COMPASS

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

www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org

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August 7, 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.

HOW CAN WE GET MORE PEOPLE TO ATTEND BIBLE CLASSES?

Roger D. Campbell

A brother in the Lord, who is a cherished friend of mine, recently wrote and asked me a question along these lines. There may be a few isolated cases and congregations in which the number who attend Bible classes matches the number who attend worship services, but unfortunately, those would be exceptions, rather than the standard practice.

Our brother's concern is legitimate. Every local church of which I have ever had knowledge has had members who did not regularly attend Sunday and/or mid-week Bible classes. Spiritually-minded saints and congregational leaders are always wondering what, if anything, can be done to increase attendance of Bible classes. Let me offer a few suggestions for all of us to consider.

Present Bible class attendance to the congregation as a priority, something that we look at as being mighty important. Advertise the classes. Make it known to the whole church that our goal is to have 100% attendance of our members coming to every Bible class. We recognize that sometime things happen that are totally out of members' control and legitimately prevent them from attending Bible classes, but we are talking about all of our folks having a desire and making an effort to be at such classes. I personally am befuddled by the mindset that presents the goal for Bible class attendance as a lower figure from the number who attend worship on the Lord's day. What kind of message does it send when we tell members that our goal for Sunday worship is 100 people, but our goal for Bible classes on Sunday is 75 people, and our goal for mid-week Bible classes is 40?! Why not make the goal 100%?!

Educate all members about the need for and benefits of Bible study. God wants us to grow in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18). He wants us to desire the word so we can grow by it (1 Peter 2:2). One of our greatest joys as a Christian is being able to teach others the Bible. We all recognize the truth that each of us is capable of teaching only those things that he has learned (2 Timothy 2:2), and in order to know the Book, we need to study. Personal Bible study in the privacy of our residence is wonderful, but organized public classes can also be extremely helpful. Jesus said that those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled (Matthew 5:6). When folks are hungry enough for the word and see its power to transform their lives, they will make an effort to attend Bible classes.

For those members who have kids or grandkids, appeal to them to think about the spiritual welfare of their offspring. Being in Bible classes temporarily keeps kids out of trouble and away from the corruption of the entertainment industry, but more than that, it allows them to learn God's story of salvation. Can you think of a better use of a child's time? Timothy was blessed because someone took the time to see to it that he was taught God's word (2 Timothy 3:15). Kids need to be in class, learning the way of the Lord! Surely every conscientious parent or grandparent would agree. Teaching kids the truth of Jehovah helps lay the foundation for the rest of their lives. Parents, get your kids to Bible class - every time and on time. It just might make the difference in where they (and you!) will be in eternity.

Make every effort to make the Bible classes appealing and beneficial. That begins with having the best teachers possible doing the teaching. Unprepared teachers, incapable teachers, those whose spiritual maturity is below the level of those whom they teach, and teachers who seem to have an agenda or hobby [for instance, in 3 out of every 4 classes that they teach, they seem compelled to bring up dancing or the origin of Satan] - such teachers will prevent Bible classes from reaching their potential.

We need dedicated, mature-but-still growing teachers in our classrooms teaching the truth of God with a kind disposition. My life has been richly blessed by sitting at the feet of such teachers.

A second key element in making classes attractive is the atmosphere of the teaching. Does in-depth Bible study go on in them, or are they merely a forum for pooling ignorant comments about matters that are far removed from the Bible? Do those who regularly attend Bible classes speak courteously to one another and to the teacher, even when they do not see eye to eye, or do they sound as if they would be more than happy to "take it outside and settle it" with their fists? Do some of the students constantly bring up irrelevant topics that ruin the flow of the study? Do a couple of people "hog the floor" with excessively long comments? Or, do people do their best to make their comments brief, stay on subject, and let the teacher do his/her job, which is to be the teacher, leader, and guide of the study?

Finally, it would be great if those saints who come to every Bible class would encourage the non-attenders to come and be a part of the classes. Those who already receive benefit from the classes that they attend should be a special advertisement for Bible classes. Talk up the classes. Talk up the benefits of attending. Exhort others to come and share in the spiritual nutrition and uplifting that good Bible classes provide.

No, I do not believe that a single article on Bible class attendance will change the minds of the majority of those children of God who have not yet been convinced to attend Bible classes. But, hopefully I have presented some ideas that will help stimulate further serious thought on the subject.

THE COURTESY OF CHRIST

Barry Kennedy

On one occasion Louis XIV of France was narrating a story before his courtiers at Versailles when suddenly he ended it very lamely. A few minutes later the prince left the room. The king then said, "You must have noticed how lamely my story ended. I forgot that it reflected on an ancestor of the prince who has just left the room; and I thought it better to spoil a good story than to distress a good man." That was courtesy.¹ How many of us would be so courteous? It is true that many reading this would rarely say something intentional to berate or hurt someone intentionally, but do the same we with our actions? Courtesy is one of the "manner traits" that one should be taught at an early age. However, it has been said that "the toughest problem facing some children is that of learning good manners without seeing any."² How sad but how true this is. Our children tend to mimic our lives and not our words.

The importance of courtesy for the Christian is seen by how it opens doors. Of course the door is a reference to the hearts of our fellow man. "Hearts, like doors can open with ease To very, very little keys And don't forget that they are these: 'I thank you, sir' and 'if you please.'" (Author Unknown).³ It is hard to respond favorably to a rude, haughty, or hateful person. Christians are to be the very opposite of such behavior. Jesus, our perfect example, gives insight into how courtesy opens doors. One of those occasions was when He passed through Jericho (Luke 19). A certain publican (Jewish tax collector for the Romans) wanted to see Jesus, but being "little of stature" and the crowd so great he climbed a sycamore tree (Luke 19:3-4). Of all the people there to see Jesus, He chose a despised publican with whom to dine (Luke 19:5). Of course the crude crowd derided Jesus for going into the "sinners" house (Luke 19:7). No doubt this made a tremendous impact upon Zacchaeus and his household. In his defense, Zacchaeus's said, "*Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold*" (Luke 19:8). Then Jesus offered Zacchaeus the greatest courtesy ever extended to man. "*This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*" (Luke 19:9-10).

Jesus is still offering the same courtesy to all men today. How many doors of opportunity will our courtesy open for us?

¹ <http://www.moreillustrations.com/illustrations/courtesy%202.html> ; ² Ibid. ; ³ Ibid