

**Crossville Church
of Christ**

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COMPASS

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

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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:

Ladies Bible Class

Tuesdays 11AM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays 10 AM

Joyful Generation

(Youth Devotional & fellowship)

1st Sunday 7:00 PM

October 9, 2011



“And let the beauty of the LORD our
God be upon us: and establish thou the
work of our hands upon us; yea, the
work of our hands establish thou it.”

(Psalm 90:17)

HAVE IT GOD'S WAY

Barry Kennedy

“Have it your way” was a promotional slogan for one popular restaurant franchise. They promoted the idea that the customers determined how their food was going to be prepared. That was a very successful campaign for the restaurant because people love to have things their way. If we are honest we would have to admit that we do not like for anyone to tell us what to do, nor do we like to be told that we are wrong. The reality is, there are times when we need someone to say, “That was wrong.” or “This is what you should do.” In fact, the Bible says that *“...the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps”* (Jeremiah 10:23). That being said, what is a person to do in order to be or do what is right? Some choose to take the approach that there is no absolute right or wrong, that is to say, all things are relative. Others choose to follow the ways of tradition. People who choose this route would likely say, “If it was good enough for my parents (grandparents etc.) it is good enough for me.” In like manner, some follow the course of least resistance. These are the people who simply go along with the flow. Finally there are those who choose the course of righteousness. These are the souls who choose to let God’s way be the standard for their living. Every one of the ways mentioned previously follow a standard of authority. The problem is that only one standard is inspired, divine, and Heaven sent. That standard is God’s way or following the word of God. Paul told Timothy that *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God...”* (2Timothy 3:16). This word is profitable in fulfilling our every need, whether they are pertaining to life (physically speaking) or godliness (spiritually speaking). *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”* (2Peter 1:3).

Are we going to muddle our way through this life following after our own ways which may lead to death? *“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”* (Proverbs 16:25). Will we seek the Lord and His way that we might have life? *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the father, but by Me”* (John 14:6). Jesus is still pleading for man to *“Enter into the strait gate...”* (Matthew 7:13). The strait gate leads to life, but sadly few will find it because they are too busy trying to walk their own path. May God help us all to lift up our eyes and see the truth that life is really not worth living if we are not going to HAVE IT GOD’S WAY.

“LET’S MAKE LAST WEEKEND A BEGINNING”

Barry Kennedy

I hope that everyone in the Crossville family was as energized, motivated, encouraged, and convicted this weekend as was I. Brad did an outstanding job pointing out the struggles we as Christians are having to face in today’s society, but not only did he point out those struggles, he also pointed out our responsibility. If anyone doubted that God’s word is still powerful they were not engaged in this weekend’s spiritual feast. Twelve of our precious souls responded to the Lord’s invitation Sunday, and three of our precious teens were baptized into Christ Sunday night. I know the angels in Heaven are rejoicing (Luke 15) and that Satan is furious. The question is, “What are WE going to do now?” Far too often we take the fire that has been lit under our feet and stamp it out as quickly as it was lit. Brothers and sisters we all have work to do. Jesus said to His disciples, *“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest”* (John 4:35). May God help us to never let the fire of His word be extinguished in our lives (Jeremiah 20:9). Let’s all band together and challenge one another to keep up the fight. Let’s stand firm on the truth of God’s word. Let’s boldly and lovingly proclaim the saving power of Jesus blood. Let’s rekindle that spiritual revival within us all. The week came to an end, but may God help us to **“MAKE LAST WEEKEND A BEGINNING!”**

CONVENIENCE OR COMMITMENT?

Tyler Young

True conversion to Christ is not just believing and being baptized. It means making a radical, life-changing commitment.

When we are baptized, we become disciples of Christ (Mat. 28:18-20), and following Jesus daily is demanding. With our hectic schedules in our fast-paced world, people are looking for a religion of convenience—one that will fit in with their busy lifestyles. Consequently, they have the idea that Jesus would never make demands of them that would interfere too much with plans and cause them to make changes in their comfortable lifestyles. How different is the real Christ—not the false Christ of people's imaginations, but the true Jesus of scripture. He said,

If any man cometh unto me, and hateth not his own father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. Whosoever doth not bear his own cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.... So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:26-27, 33).

On another occasion several individuals professed a willingness to follow Christ, but apparently the Lord perceived they lacked a true understanding of the sacrifice of genuine discipleship. He said to one of them, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). Clearly the Lord is not pleased with the shallow, emotional response which characterizes many today who respond impulsively to his call rather than thoughtfully and deliberately deciding to give their lives to him. He wants us to understand that following him is a lifelong commitment, a complete sacrifice of self, a total surrender to his will. There is no turning back. "Remember Lot's wife," he warned (Luke 17:32).

There are many churches and preachers who say little or nothing at all about the necessity of obedience to Christ and the sacrifice required to serve him. Seeking to accommodate our sinful, self-absorbed society, they woo the world with soothing platitudes and pampering programs. They preach a false gospel of a false Christ. They are preoccupied with promises of what "God will do for you" rather than what God requires of us.

Yes, we can rejoice in what God has done and will do for those who respond to his grace and come to Christ. But we must make clear that being saved means becoming and remaining a faithful Christian, and that requires total commitment. Jesus will not tolerate divided affections or partial allegiance (Mat. 6:24). He said, "But seek first his kingdom, and his righteousness" (Mat. 6:33). The Lord will have first place in our lives, or none at all. He expects us to be "faithful unto death" (Rev. 2:10), meaning not merely until death, but to the point of giving our lives if need be.

The sacrifice required to follow Christ is more than worth it (John 12:25). Make the commitment to faithfully and fully follow him, and he will give you eternal life.

