

**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

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

December 18, 2011



**“Last eve I passed beside a blacksmith’s door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then, looking in, I saw upon the floor
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.**

**“How many anvils have you had,” said I,
“To wear and batter all these hammers so?”
“Just one,” said he, and then with twinkling eye,
“The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.”**

**And so, thought I, the anvil of God’s Word,
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed – the hammers gone.**

— Author Unknown

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO GIVE

Justin Hopkins

It is often said that our children are the future of the church. Our actions today will largely shape the influence and faithfulness of the church in our own day. The habits, ideals, and attitudes that we instill in our children will largely shape the influence and faithfulness of the church in their generation. The Psalmist describes children as “arrows in the hand of a mighty man” (Psa. 127:4). Unlike the pre-manufactured arrows of today, the archer’s arrows of Solomon’s day started as limbs, carefully chosen by the archer and then handcrafted to fly straight and true. While our children are at home, it is our task to shape them so that they will fly straight and true when they go out from us. What do they need to understand, feel, and do in respect to giving? How do we impress these principles upon them?

Teaching Them to Give Cheerfully: “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him” (Prov. 22:15). God designed children to crave instruction and direction in life. They push limits, not to turn our hair grey, but to learn what is expected of them. God then gave parents the responsibility to provide that instruction and direction. One trait that usually evidences itself in full force about the age of two is a very self-centered view of the world. We need to teach them to let go of things, and to be happy about it. “God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7). A great way to start this is to give them a couple of quarters to give. They are shiny, and fun to hold, but they also make a fun noise when you drop them in the plate.

Teaching Them to Give Freely: Once they have come to be happy about holding your quarters for a while and then giving them to God, it is time to teach another lesson. “Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing” (2 Sam. 24:24). Giving becomes sacrificial and truly meaningful when the cost is felt. If everything comes free, then giving isn’t such a big deal. A great way to handle this is to give them age-appropriate jobs to do, and pay when they are done and done well. Help your child keep track of their money, and let them buy things with it. Teach them that they could buy three small toys or one big toy for the same money. This establishes value. Then help them decide how much to give, and let them give their own money.

Teaching Them to Give Generously: As our children learn to assign value to things, the tendency to be greedy will often crop up again. At this point, it is important to help them understand from where all of these blessings come, and help them to develop both a grateful and a generous attitude toward them. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17). While it is true that giving to God may mean that it takes longer to buy that toy, it is God who gives them the ability to buy it in the first place. Aside from that, as they learn to be motivated out of a grateful attitude, they will also find that God provides for all of their needs and most of their wants (Matt. 6:33).

Teaching Them to Give Totally: “They gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us” (2 Cor. 8:4). This last concept is perhaps the most important of all. It is also the most difficult to understand and embrace. We tend to think of things in terms of possession. However, we must teach our children to understand that it isn’t really ours anyway. It all belongs to God (Psa. 24:1)! Everything that we have is not ours, but His, and it is under our care. When our children understand this, giving becomes easier. Further, we belong to Him too (1 Cor. 6:20). When we help our children to understand that their very person, and everything that is theirs belongs to God, why would they not freely give to Him who gives them all things to enjoy (1 Tim. 6:17)?

Teaching Them to Give as We Do: While we are teaching all these things to our children, they are watching us. What do our children see? All of these same principles are just as true for us as they are for our kids. When God healed Hezekiah the Babylonian prince came to see him. Rather than showing God’s goodness, Hezekiah showed off his wealth. Isaiah asked him the question, “What have they seen in thine house?” (Isa. 39:4). Our children hear us talk about God’s goodness. Do they see us giving accordingly? We cannot teach them lessons we refuse to learn, and you can be sure that they are watching.

(The Christian Worker 2011)

“IT AIN’T OVER TILL IT’S OVER”

Barry Grider

The above phrase was coined by the late great Yankee Yogi Berra. Such was certainly true in the recent world series. Most Cardinals and Rangers fans probably thought by the eighth inning of the sixth game that surely Texas would win it all. However, the Cards tied the game in the ninth and won it in extra innings. The next night they won it all. You see no matter what fans thought, “it ain’t over till it’s over.”

On November 2, 1948 most political pundits predicted that Governor Thomas H. Dewey would handily defeat President Harry S Truman who was seeking to be elected own his own after assuming the office upon the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. That evening the lead caption in the Chicago Tribune read, “Dewey defeats Truman.” However, by the next morning, President Truman would delight holding up that paper before his enthusiastic crowds because when the final votes were tallied Truman had won. You see no matter what pundits thought, “it ain’t over till it’s over.”

Peter promised his Lord he would never deny Him. “And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice” (Mark 14:30). Though Peter was very sincere, Jesus was right. Before the night was over Peter had denied his Lord three times. After he heard the rooster crow the second time, the words of the Lord could be heard in his mind and he wept bitterly over what he had done (Matt. 26:75). However, the ever loving, merciful, and patient Savior had not given up on Peter. After Jesus’ resurrection, an angel standing at the empty tomb said to the women, “But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you” (Mark 16:7). Peter was no doubt ready to give up. Jesus, however, would use the penitent Peter in a mighty way. You see no matter what Peter could have thought, “it ain’t over till it’s over.”

There perhaps have been numerous instances in your life that you thought would ruin you forever. But remember life is like writing a book. No matter how many disappointments, mistakes, trials have been yours, if you are still breathing, then the final chapter in your life has not been written. Have you ever suddenly awakened from sleep, perhaps from a bad dream wherein you found yourself lost when Jesus came, and asked yourself, “I wonder if Jesus had come or if I had died would I have gone to heaven.” If you were unsure, how wonderful to know you just had a bad dream. You still have opportunity to make things right with God if that is the need. Take advantage of the moment to obey the gospel, to stop bad habits, to make things right with God and your fellow man. You can do that because “it ain’t over till it’s over.”

(Forest Hill News Dec. 6, 2011)

