

## Crossville Church of Christ

P.O. Box 211

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Phone

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### Elders:

Frank Bohannon  
Jiggs Killgore  
Jonathan Loveday  
Larry McDuffee  
Brian McLaughlin  
Jon Tatum

### Deacons:

Jim Bell  
Charles Evans  
Kyle Fairman  
Dale Hennessee  
Mike Isaacson  
David Kerley  
Doug Loveday  
Greg Maxwell  
Don Napier  
Tom Parham  
Mark Roberts  
Roger Smith  
Jason Wyatt  
Jerry Wood

### Ministers:

Barry Kennedy  
Ken Mears

### Missionaries: (India)

Don Iverson  
Jim Waldron

### 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

[www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org)

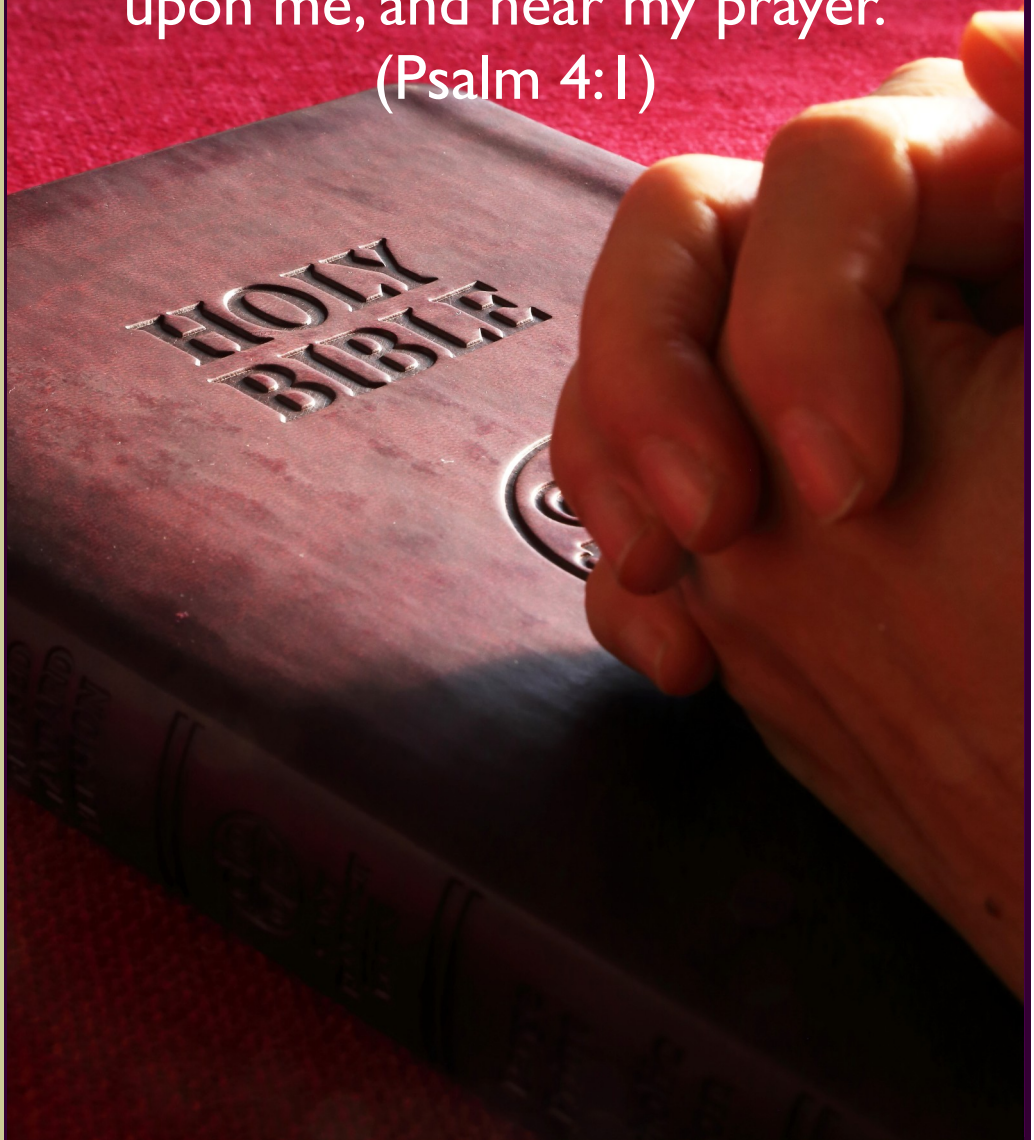
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November 29, 2015

“Hear me when I call, O God of my  
righteousness: thou hast enlarged me  
when I was in distress; have mercy  
upon me, and hear my prayer.”  
(Psalm 4:1)



## KEEP LOOKING UP

Barry Kennedy

This statement was the closing line for a television show that aired on Public Television called, “Star Gazers.” It was one of those late night programs that aired before the station went “off the air.” The host of this show would point out events happening in the night sky. He pointed out eclipses, comets, when other planets might be visible with the naked eye, and many other events of that nature. He always ended every episode by saying, “Keep looking up.” This statement is one that Christians should be taking to heart even today. No, I am not saying that we need to be studying the night sky for meteors, comets, and shooting stars, but we need to keep looking up toward God.

**KEEP LOOKING UP FOR GUIDANCE.** For centuries seaman have used the stars to help them chart their courses. To them looking up could be the difference in reaching their destination or becoming lost at sea. Guidance is a necessity in life. Just think of how little would be accomplished without proper guidance. The same is true when one considers the spiritual life of Christianity. In fact no one can even become a Christian without proper guidance. *“It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me”* (John 6:45). God has offered guidance to all those who are willing to look to Him. Sadly, far too many people are content to literally just “look up” and expect God to guide them. The truth is, when we look to God’s word (i.e. the Bible) we are in fact looking to God for direction (1 Timothy 3:16, 17). Jesus said, *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they that testify of Me”* (John 5:39).

Christians, just like the naval captains, are asking for trouble when they choose not to follow guidance that is true. Considering all the above, why not KEEP LOOKING UP into God’s word for the guidance God has to offer.

**KEEP LOOKING UP FOR SALVATION.** Salvation is not something that is to be taken lightly. Just imagine, you are on a ship out in the middle of the ocean and the only directions that you know for sure are up and down. You are lost and in need of salvation. When one is lost at sea, salvation is not something that anyone would take for granted. So why is it that only a few people see a real need to be concerned when it comes to the salvation of the immortal soul? The answer to that question comes from understanding the difference in how we value physical life and spiritual life. Paul told the church in Corinth that he could not talk with them as spiritually minded individuals, because they were carnal (i.e. worldly, physically) minded (1 Corinthians 3:1). The mind that focuses only upon the life of the flesh will not be concerned with eternity. Peter and James compared flesh to the grass of the field or the vapor off of a pot of boiling water (James 1:14; 1 Peter 1:24). Therefore, this person cannot comprehend the fact that sin has placed a curse upon their immortal soul (Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2). The fact that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God should make us more interested in looking up for salvation.

Salvation for the physical life of man can come from almost anywhere. In fact, children have been known to save their parents. Animals, such as dogs, have at times come to the aid of their masters. Doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters, and on and on we could go listing those who have been able to save the physical life of another human being, but there is only one who can save the immortal life of man. That one is Jesus Christ. *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). To whom are we looking for salvation?

God is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him (Hebrews 5:9). The personal responsibility that each one of us have is seen in the Hebrew letter. **“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God”** (Hebrews 12:2). The soul is at stake, so why would we not **KEEP LOOKING UP** for guidance and salvation.

# IS DOCTRINE IMPOTANT

**Alan Highers**

One of the characteristics of the early church was that "they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42).

Doctrine has become unimportant in many religious traditions. It is taught that what people do is more important than what they believe. Consequently, people have been admonished to be kind, considerate of one another, and to have a compassionate attitude, but little emphasis is placed on what they believe. In New Testament times, it was important for men to do the right things, but also it was necessary for them to believe the right things. "For if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). Jesus said, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

In writing to Timothy, the apostle Paul stated: "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Timothy 4:16). Timothy was to take heed to two things: himself and doctrine. In so doing, he would save both himself and those who heard him. Doctrine is important.

In II John 9, we are told: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." Abide not in the doctrine of Christ, and have not God; abide in the doctrine of Christ, and have both the Father and the Son. Yes, doctrine is important.

Even some churches of Christ today do not emphasize doctrine. The scriptures clearly warn, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine" (II Timothy 4:3). Remember the scriptural admonition: "But speak thou the things which befit the sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1, ASV). Let us be thankful when the doctrine of Christ is preached. We need to learn it, we need to believe it, and we need to teach it to others. "Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (I Timothy 4:13).

## TEN RULES FOR IMPROVING ATTITUDES IN THE CHURCH

1. Tell yourself over and over that since you are not perfect, you would not fit into a "perfect" congregation if one existed.
2. Instead of picking out the worldly members to point to, select the sincere, dedicated, spiritual members, and thank God for them.
3. If you are old, treat the young with the consideration you desired as a young person. If you are young, treat adults with the respect you will want when you are mature.
4. When you are tempted to criticize others, be sure to pray earnestly for them first. This may not change them, but it will do wonders for your attitude.
5. When you see a work neglected, instead of being critical, offer to help.
6. Never blame others for your own failures. Every individual can be faithful to God in spite of the bad examples and discouraging attitudes of others.
7. Remind yourself every day that the only way you can improve the world or the church is to begin with self.
8. Consciously look for the good qualities in each brother and sister in Christ; make a mental note of the good points each possesses.
9. Constantly strive to increase your circle of associates in the church. Try to do something for each.
10. Every congregation has problems. Constantly ask yourself, "Am I a part of the problem, a part of the solution, or merely a critical spectator?"