

Crossville Church of Christ

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Elders:

Frank Bohannon
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Jim Bell
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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:

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

Email: Office@crossvillechurchofchrist.org

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December 27, 2015



JUST ONE REQUEST

Dear Master for this coming year

Just one request I bring:

I do not pray for happiness,

Or any earthly thing—

I do not ask to understand

The way Thou leadest me,

But this I ask: Teach me to do

The thing that pleaseth Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice,

To walk with Thee each day.

Dear Master make me swift to hear

And ready to obey.

And thus the year I now begin

A happy year will be—

If I am seeking just to do

The thing that pleaseth Thee.

—Author Unknown

!!!HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

TIME TO GROW

*This Lord's day will be the last one we see for the year 2015,
We remember the highs and regret all the lows but pray that we ever will grow.
Grow in our love for the One who gave us this life, and strive to ever walk in His light.
Grow in our love for our families He provided, and strive never to take them for granted.
Grow in our faith through the Word that He gave, and share it with those all around us.
Grow in our care for the lost everywhere, and knowledge that God wants to save them.
Grow in our hope that no matter the blows our foundation will never forsake us.
Grow in the grace that only God gives and show others all that it means.
Grow in our joy for the merry heart doeth good as a medicine.
Grow in our patience for it is the grace that helps to maintain our pace.
As we draw the shades on this past year's accolades, we need not forget all the lessons.
And resolve with the new to stay ever true to the One who makes life worth the living.
So now that we come to the end of the line, and say farewell to this year.
May we grow in the gifts that God lays at our feet in the New Year of 2016.*

Barry Kennedy



THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

David Shannon

“Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness” (Romans 11:22).

God’s Severity How wonderful it is to be in a church family where God’s Word is read and loved. Presently, we are reading through Leviticus. In chapter 10 we see the severity of God as He executes Nadab and Abihu. What did they do deserving of death? They placed incense in their own censer and added their own fire before the Lord. But the fire is described by God as “profane” and the Hebrew word is translated in the KJV “strange.” Perhaps the sin was that the incense wasn’t sprinkled on the proper alter and/or the fire was not taken from the brazen alter, but from another source. We can question the details, but there is no question as to the violated principle. God said “and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them” (Leviticus 10:1). Their spiritual responsibility of offering incense was dictated by their personal desires. Notice God’s explanation— I “had not commanded”. The bar is set as the priestly ministry begins. Chapter nine describes the beginning of the priestly service and chapter ten describes God’s punishment when priests presumptuously do something not commanded. Today one says, “But God didn’t say we can’t add instruments, dramas, or musical performances to our worship.” God also didn’t tell Nadab and Abihu they couldn’t add strange fire. He told them the fire they were to offer, and then condemned their going beyond His specific command. Our obedience to God must be as specific as His commands.

God’s Goodness Interestingly, in the same tenth chapter of Leviticus we also read of two cousins of Nadab and Abihu who were disobedient in their priestly duties. It may seem puzzling as to why Nadab and Abihu were immediately executed for their sin, just as were the two oldest sons of Judah for their interaction with Tamar (Gen 38:7-10); Ananias and Sapphira for lying (Acts 5); and Uzzah for touching the ark (2 Sam 6:7-8); yet when Eleazar and Ithamar disobeyed God commanded them to eat the sin offering in a Holy place as recorded in Leviticus 10 beginning in verse 16, they were not executed. Why? Moses was angry toward them. But Aaron the High Priest speaks on their behalf. He explained that they had offered a sin offering and a burnt offering and had experienced the death of their cousins (“and such things have befallen me” vr 19) while obediently not grieving their death (10:6-7). Notice neither Moses nor God overlooked their sin, but both granted mercy to them. Nadab and Abihu were not the last priests to make mistakes, just as Ananias and Sapphira were not the last to lie to God. But in God’s wisdom he chose to punish them immediately with the death that will eventually come to all who presumptuously practice religion their own way. Aaron seems to be making a plea to Moses for Eleazar and Ithamar as if to say, “They made a mistake, it was wrong, but consider the losses we experienced today”. Sin is sin. There is a huge difference in an intentional sin and a mistake. Intentional sin reveals a rebellious spirit—God can’t save the rebellious. “Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord and He will lift you up” (James 4:10). That is what he did in Leviticus 10. Let’s surrender all to the Lord to avoid His severity and receive His goodness. May God bless you in your reading of His Word today.

