

Crossville Church of Christ

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Elders:

Frank Bohannon
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Deacons:

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

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December 6, 2015

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the
God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect
heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD
searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the
imaginings of the thoughts: if thou seek
him, he will be found of thee; but if thou
forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

1 Chronicles 28:9

KJV 1900

WHAT DOES THE “SUNDAY MORNING ONLY” CHRISTIAN MISS?

Neal Pollard

It is an eclectic club. Some of its members have only ever come one service per week, whose perceivable spiritual progress has been hard to measure. Others, perhaps more tragically, have waned from greater faithfulness in the past to the more tepid attitude toward the assemblies at which God is always present. The Bible makes it clear that those who fail to put Christ first have put something in that place. This is an unenviable position to be in. Yet, these who neglect faithful attendance deprive themselves of so much.

- **They miss information.** Bible classes, sermons, table talks, and mid-week devotional talks all help increase our knowledge and strengthen our conviction in what we already know. This information is like a flashlight for the journey in a dark, dark world (Ps. 119:105). If we take heed to that word, we do well (2 Pet. 1:19). To identify the enemy, you must know all about him.
- **They miss association.** The people dearest to God are there. Christ, our Savior, friend, older brother, King, Shepherd, Door, and Mediator, is there. The earliest Christians were steadfast in fellowship with each other, a fellowship contextually shown to be spiritual in nature (Acts 2:42). Paul reminds us we should prefer one another, something we fail to show when we give preference to some other place and event (Rom. 12:10).
- **They miss inspiration.** We need our spirits lifted. Others need us to lift their spirits, too (Heb. 10:24; cf. Phil. 2:3-4). In worship we can get our spiritual batteries charged. Coming together helps us each face the world. We are to be renewed in the spirit of our minds (Eph. 4:23-24). The assemblies aid us in this.
- **They miss provocation.** Often, we do things we know we should not do. As such, we need to be provoked or stimulated to do what we already know is right (Heb. 10:24). At the assemblies, we lift each other up and hold each other's hands in our common life (cf. 1 Thess. 5:14).
- **They miss edification.** We have a responsibility to be here and build up other Christians. Remember, love edifies (1 Cor. 8:1). You cannot do that as well from a remote location. We are to use our abilities to help perfect the saints, to work in ministry, and to build up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12). That's a “done together” activity in which those withholding their presence cannot engage.
- **They miss immunization.** The world is infected with sin and it is often hard to live for Christ (cf. 1 John 5:19). We can and do “inject” ourselves with strength at every service, an injection that will help us fight off the cancer of sin (cf. Jer. 7:18). Attending all the services strengthens our spiritual health (Ps. 42:11). Who thinks he or she is better equipped to fight alone than with the collective help of the church as well as the special strength available as by God's design when we assemble together?
- **They miss jubilation.** There is nothing as seemingly miserable as the Christian who feels that it is his “duty” to come to the services (look at David—Ps. 122:1). It is a shame that “S-M-O” Christians miss the excitement of baptisms and others who come forward for prayers, the encouragement of seeing new Christians participate in worship or young people demonstrating their faith, and the example of others whose words, actions, and attitudes make us glad we are Christians. Few whose hearts and minds have been fully engaged in an assembly will walk away regretting it or being more depressed than when they arrived.

- **They miss obligation.** We are mutually accountable (Rom. 1:14; Heb. 3:13; Col. 3:13; etc.). We are indebted to God (Rom. 8:12). We are commanded by Him to come together (Heb. 10:25). None of these obligations comes with an expiration date. We consider those who shirk their obligations to be irresponsible. What obligation outweighs the one laid upon us by the Lord?

The many, many principles of scripture lead to an unavoidable conclusion. We should want to be together with Christ and His people at every opportunity. If we do not want this enough to make it happen, maybe something is terribly wrong with our “affections” (cf. Col. 3:1-2).

FINDING AND KEEPING PEACE WITHIN

Mike King

A letter was received by the IRS stating: “I can’t sleep; my conscience is bothering me, enclosed find a check for fifty dollars. If I still can’t sleep, I’ll send the balance.” The writer was just willing to do enough to relieve guilt, but not enough to square the debt.

A Chinese proverb presented some insight to peace of mind, “If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there be beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there be harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.” It sounds almost simplistic, but it also makes such good sense. Society’s problem is that we are not at peace with self; when not at peace with self, nothing else can be right because we are constantly looking through jaded windows.

“Peace is: the normal, non-warring condition of a nation, a group of nations, or the world; a state of mutual harmony between people or groups; freedom of the mind from annoyance, distraction, anxiety; tranquility, serenity, silence, calm or quiet.”

There have always been times of peace and war. Solomon said: “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace” (Ecc. 3:18). As long as free-thinking people with different priorities and ideals exist, war and strife will exist. Peace is a costly thing! Our nation has not become the nation that it is without many battles, sacrifices, blood and tears of our forefathers. Our nation has always been peace loving. Wars have been fought because of unrest and ulterior motives of other countries trying to disturb or rob our nation of its privileges. The world has been a constant battleground for thousands of years. How can we achieve that peace we all so much crave?

God is the author of peace (1 Cor. 4:33; Rom. 5:33) and until His will is embraced by mankind, there will be no peace, “For He is our peace...and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh” (Eph. 2:14, 17). As Jesus was preparing for His departure to be with God, He told His disciples: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (Jn. 14:27). He brought that peace by the cross, “...having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself (Col. 1:20).

