

**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
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

Minister:

Barry Kennedy

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

February 8, 2015



**“A man that hath friends
must shew himself
friendly: and there is a
friend that sticketh closer
than a brother”
(Proverbs 18:24).**

WHAT KIND OF CHURCH?

Johnny Ramsey

When we survey various churches in the first century we find challenges and disappointments among the brethren. Perhaps, these matters can help us to improve, correct and serve better in the kingdom of God's dear Son!

The church in **JERUSALEM** was genuinely benevolent as depicted in Acts 6. Daily they provided care for the widows in their midst. Christians had to help one another, because the Roman Empire would not assist those who refused to worship the emperor. The Jewish nation rejected the Messiah whom children of God honored. The church at Jerusalem set a high standard by caring for their own needy saints. Are we gracious in this area today? It is amazing how unconcerned and non-gracious some members of the church are today. They remind me of the sad prayer which one man offered: Bless me and my wife, Joe and his wife, Just us four, no more. Amen!

The church in **ANTIOCH** was exceptional in evangelism (Acts 13). The tours of evangelistic endeavor which proceeded from that landmark congregation set a high standard. With compassion for the lost, they had a vision for redeeming sinful men. Across the ancient world, they emblazoned the message of salvation. Few churches have gotten close to their quality of zeal and passion. They believed that the door to happiness swings outward so they "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4) to a dying world. Sadly, so many of us are God's silent partners who forsake the challenge of the great commission. Don't forget: "Some people are like blisters: they never show up until the work is done."

The church at **LAODICEA** made the Lord sick (Rev. 3). They were self-reliant and ego-centered. They thought they had need of nothing. Pompous and proud were they, but essentially they were poor, blind, miserable and wretched, so Jesus rebuked them. Much like some today in a fancy cathedral - where souls are never saved - they just bask in the social acceptance of the community while they break the heart of God! We ought to consider seriously this question: "How much would we be worth if we lost our money?"

The **COLOSSIAN** church was dedicated and Christ centered. The Lord was in them completely (Col. 1:27; 2:10). The epistle addressed to these brethren overflows with spiritual depth and growth. Their hearts were knit together in love, faith and devotion (Col. 2:2-7). This is the kind of church that we need to emulate.

The church in **PHILADELPHIA** was small in size, but powerful in pursuit of truth. As a result, the Lord opened doors for them to do even more. We are never asked to do more than we are capable of doing, but God demands that we never sit idle and complain over the problems around us. When we do the best we can with what we have, then heaven is pleased.

The church in **THYATIRA** tolerated sin and would not purge evil out of its midst (Rev. 2:18-24). Sounds like a lot of brethren I know today, who absolutely refuse to practice church discipline. Elders need to genuinely shepherd the flock of God (Acts 20:28-32) and not allow diseased and stubborn sheep to endanger the whole herd. **SMYRNA** was faithful while persecution hovered over the church (Rev. 2:10), but **SARDIS** was dead and indifferent due to their worldliness which would cause their names to be removed from the Lamb's book of life.

The crowning joy of Paul's evangelism centered in **PHILIPPI** and **THESSALONICA**. Those two churches spread the gospel, loved one another and gave generously to the cause of Christ. What a combination! When we reflect upon New Testament churches, we think of the **BEREANS** who "examined the Scriptures daily" (Acts 17:11) due to their ardent zeal for divine mandates. The brethren in **EPHESUS** exposed error and were praised by the Lord Jesus Christ for such alert action (Rev. 2:2).

"What kind of church is this?" should be asked by every member, in view of eternity.

IF THE WORLD WERE LIKE ME WHAT KIND OF WORLD WOULD IT BE?

Barry Kennedy

People have a strong urge to watch other people. This point is clearly seen in the explosion of “reality” television. The term “reality” is far from what is actually being portrayed on such programs. Just imagine how we would behave if we were being filmed every hour of the day. Would we do things “normally,” or would we not try to enhance our lives? Many people who watch these shows inevitably start thinking how they would have handled the situation. People tend to see their own lives as being the “standard” of normal. Considering that point, let us all ask the question, “IF THE WORLD WERE LIKE ME, WHAT KIND OF WORLD WOULD IT BE?”

Would it be a world that seeks first the kingdom of God? As a part of the sermon on the mount, Jesus emphasized that the provision of life’s daily necessities are promised to those who are willing to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). The question everyone should be asking is, “Am I truly putting first the kingdom of God and His righteousness?” Would we be comfortable knowing that the world’s priorities are the same as ours? Another point that must be considered is that we are an example to the world. In fact, Jesus said that we are the “salt of the earth... the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid” (Matthew 5:13, 14). Paul emphasized the importance of example to the young preacher Timothy when he wrote, “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). Make sure that we are seeking the kingdom first in our own lives, and maybe we can help some in the world to do the same. If that were to happen, what kind of world would this be?

Would it be a world that loved their neighbors as themselves? Jesus was tested many times while He ministered on earth. On one of those occasions He was asked, “Master, which is the great commandment in the law?” (Matthew 22:36). Jesus replied with these words, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind... And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Matthew 22:37-39). Clearly Jesus placed love for God at the top of the list, but loving our neighbors is “like unto it.” This is one of the cardinal characteristics of Christianity. The Hebrew writer said that we are to “consider one another to provoke unto love and good works:” (Hebrews 10:24). He also wrote that we are to “exhort one another daily...” (Hebrews 3:13). Paul informed the Thessalonians to “...comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do” (1 Thessalonians 5:11). One more passage to consider is Paul’s charge to the church in Colossae, “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” (Colossians 3:13). Is this what the world is doing? Maybe a better question would be “Is this what we are doing?” We are not alone in this world, and our influence has an impact on more than just our own lives. “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). It is easy for many of us to see the sin that is bringing the world down around us, but it takes humility, as well as a spiritual mindset, to evaluate whether or not we are the righteous people God is wanting to bless. We must learn to take seriously the power of our influence on the world around us. “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself” (Romans 14:7).

IF THE WORLD WERE LIKE ME, WHAT KIND OF WORLD WOULD IT BE? Let God’s word be our standard for living and maybe the world around us can be more like Christ.