

Crossville Church of Christ

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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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March 8, 2015



Working Together

Working together will get the job done;
When we all do our part it can even be fun.
The Lord has been gracious in giving us life,
And now it's our job to live that life right.
When we all pull apart, the work it will wane;
It causes us strife and a whole lot of pain.
But working together makes every load lighter,
And in the end it will make our lives brighter.
So let's take time to sit down together,
And plan how we all can make each other's lives better.
The Father, Son, and Spirit working together is perfection,
So not working together is just disrespectful.
May God help us all to be selfless and proper,
For in working together we have hope that we'll prosper.

—Barry Kennedy

IT REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ferman Carpenter

Many folks live completely oblivious to God's commands. They think that it doesn't matter how one worships, if one worships, or where one worships God, just as long as he/she is sincere. However, the Bible says that God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5), and all who wish to please Him must hold in reverence what He says. Just a casual scan of the Bible will reveal that indifference to things sacred has brought tragedy to many sincere people.

1. It made a difference in things offered. Cain's sacrifice was rejected but Abel's was accepted (Genesis 4). Why? "Faith cometh by hearing... the word of God" (Romans 10:17), and since Abel's offering was "by faith" (Hebrews 11:4), we know that God had spoken to them about making an offering. But Cain disrespected God's word and worshipped in vain. The same thing can happen today (Matthew 15:9); that's why we must worship God only as He directs (John 4:24). No matter how sincere we may be, obedience to God is required (2 John 9; 1 Samuel 15:22). It makes a difference!

2. It made a difference if Moses struck or spoke. God's command to Moses was understandable. But Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it as God had said (Numbers 20). This may seem like a little thing, but we must remember, "It is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). It may seem all right to practice things unauthorized in worship, but these things could lead to our spiritual death, for "there is a way that seemeth right unto man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). It makes a difference!

3. It made a difference to Jesus about which church. He lived in a time and place where there were many religious groups. In the face of criticism, he said: "In vain do they worship me teaching for doctrine the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). He could have taken a more politically correct view by saying, "One church is as good as another," or "There are saved people in all faiths." But He pushed politics aside and said: "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell [hades, G.W.] shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Just think: if "my car" or "my house" means these things belong to me, then when Christ said "my church" it must mean it belongs to Him. He purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25-27); He is its head (Ephesians 1:22-23), it is His bride and wears His name (Romans 7; Ephesians 5).

So it makes a difference! No matter where one looks in the Bible, he cannot find a single example where failure to worship God as He authorizes was acceptable to Him. The first things a person must do to be Christ's disciples to deny himself (Luke 9:23). This cannot be done by following the paths of least resistance. Search the Scriptures daily to make sure (Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15). Why? Because it really does make a difference!

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein" (Hebrews 13:9).



RIGHT WORSHIP

Derrick Coble

As we come together in place (1 Cor. 11:20) to assemble before the Lord, our purpose for coming together should be very clear—to worship the Lord God. Worship is simply a bowing down out of deep respect for someone else. For instance, when Abraham's servant went to look for a wife to give unto Isaac, Laban and Bethuel said, "Take Rebekah." "And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth: (Gen. 24:52). Again, when the children of Israel saw fire come down from the Lord and His glory upon the temple they "bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement and worshipped" (2 Chron. 7:3). Thus, our coming together for worship today is to show deep respect in a bowing down and a kiss toward God, praising Him for the gift of His son, for His mercy, love, and grace. However, we have to worship in a way that is right.

THE RIGHT OBJECT

The object is the focus of our worship and that object is God. On one occasion, the Devil came to Jesus wanting worship. He took Him to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the earth and said, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me" (Mat. 4:8,9). What did Satan mean by that? He meant if you will show deep respect for me, if you will kiss toward me, if you will praise me as the prince of the power of the air and magnify my name, you can have all the world. But, God had already given Jesus all things into His hand (John 3:35). Jesus told us who the right object of worship really was when He proclaimed, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Mat. 4:10).

THE RIGHT ACTIONS

Many today mock the fact that there is a plan of action in Christian worship. It is exactly what Jesus demanded to the woman at the well: God must be worshipped in spirit (with the proper attitude) and in truth (with the proper actions) (John 4:24). There are five actions in our worship to God that should never be mechanical or material because worship appeals to the spirit not to the flesh. These actions include: Preaching/Teaching (2 Tim. 4:2), Singing (Eph. 5:19), Praying (1 Tim. 2:1), Giving (2 Cor. 9:7), and the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:26).

THE RIGHT MOTIVATION

If we were to take a survey in an assembly asking, "What motivated you to come to worship today?" there would be several different answers. Some would say, "I fear the Lord would take vengeance upon me if I do not worship Him." Others would say, "Because I am commanded to do so." Still others might say, "When I don't worship, I feel guilty all day long." Yet, none of these motivating factors will last over time. Fear is a good motivation (and God will punish those who do not worship Him) but after a while fear subsides. Furthermore, after a sin is committed guilt is always felt, but in a week or two it can be completely forgotten. Of course, it is good that we are following the commands of God, but shouldn't we be motivated by more than just a sense of obligation? Perhaps, the best motivating factor is love—love helps us pay homage to God (reverence and respect toward Him). Worship is a giving process—all that we have we should surrender to God. Someone wrote, "What shall I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would give him a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; But such as I have I give him—I give him my heart." Let us all strive to worship God Almighty in the right way for the right reason.

