

**Crossville Church  
of Christ**

**P.O. Box 211  
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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:**

**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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**August 23, 2015**



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**JULY**

**July 8:** "My Joy & My Crown, an Introduction"  
**Ben Bailey**, McMinnville, TN  
**July 15:** "My Joy & My Crown in Grace & Peace" (Phil. 1:2)  
**Tom Holland**, Brentwood, TN  
**July 22:** "My Joy & My Crown in Prayer & Preaching" (Phil. 1:4, 15-18)  
**Jason Gann**, McMinnville, TN  
**July 29:** "My Joy & My Crown in Faith" (Phil. 1:25)  
**Brandon Parsley**, McMinnville, TN

**AUGUST**

**August 5:** "My Joy & My Crown in Fellowship & Unity" (Phil. 1:5, 2:1, 2)  
**Bill Williams**, Manchester, TN  
**August 12:** "My Joy & My Crown in Christ's Return" (Phil. 2:16)  
**Tony Britt**, Pikeville, TN  
**August 19:** "My Joy & My Crown in Christian Service" (Phil. 2:17-22)  
**Paul Sain**, Pulaski, TN  
**August 26:** "My Joy & My Crown Being in the Lord" (Phil. 3:1-7)  
**Ralph Hart**, Manchester, TN

**SEPTEMBER**

**September 2:** "My Joy & My Crown in Present & Future Things" (Phil. 3:13-14)  
**Ken Mears**, Crossville, TN  
**September 9:** "My Joy & My Crown in Right Thinking" (Phil. 4:8)  
**Tony Lawrence**, McMinnville, TN  
**September 16:** "My Joy & My Crown in Contentment" (Phil. 4:11-12)  
**Dale Barger**, Wheeler Hill, TN  
**September 23:** "My Joy & My Crown in Christ Given Strength" (Phil. 4:13)  
**David Lipe**, Cookeville, TN

# WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

Author Unknown

Bitter food is one thing; but a bitter spirit that eats at the soul and spews forth cutting, hateful words is another matter entirely.

When you think about something tasting bitter, what comes to mind? An unpleasant taste? No doubt. A cutting feeling on the tongue? Most likely. A bitter-tasting object can cause a person's tongue, mouth, face, and even entire body to twist, shake, and recoil in response to it. It is sometimes comical to watch such a reaction when unsuspecting souls bite into a food item from which they did not anticipate a bitter taste. Small children can be a riot to watch do so. There is nothing comical, however, about a scene in which children of God demonstrate a bitter spirit towards God or their fellow man. Bitter food is one thing; but a bitter spirit that eats at the soul and spews forth cutting, hateful words is another matter entirely. Since Jesus said, "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:16), we would do well to consider some of the consequences or fallouts that come about due to bitterness. They are not pretty. Hopefully, the ugliness of them will catch our attention and cause us to be determined to work diligently to keep bitterness from taking root in our hearts.

**WHAT DOES BITTERNESS DO?** Bitterness troubles. That is what Hebrews 12:14 teaches. "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." Bitterness stirs up trouble. If Satan cannot get us to fall for false teaching or give in to the pull of immoral conduct, he will take a crack at bringing us down with a bitter spirit. Marriages, friendships and elderships have crashed due to bitterness robbing people of their joy, rational thinking, and peaceful demeanor. Let's face it: some people have "bitter breath." I do not mean they have a foul odor, but rather the words that spring forth from their mouth are full of bitterness. James asked, "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter" (James 3:11)? The answer is obvious. Just before that, James had made these two declarations: "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (3:10).

The point? Christians need to remove bitter speech from their vocabulary. That means, of course, that we must first remove any bitter spirit from our hearts. Make no mistake about it: a heart filled with bitterness causes big trouble, some of which is undoable. Bitterness defiles. We see this truth in the latter part of Hebrews 12:15: "...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." Many would be quick to point out how horrific murder, adultery, and idolatry are. Yet, a bitter disposition is sometimes passed off as, "That's just the way he/she is." If "the way he/she is" means that he/she is a bitter grump, then he/she needs to have a serious change of heart and repent! The same Lord that tells us to avoid murder, adultery and idolatry also charges us, "Let all bitterness...be put away from you..." (Eph. 4:32). God knows what you and I need to understand and admit: bitterness defiles the soul.

Bitterness divides. A bitter spirit gets in the way of obeying the Lord's instruction to "follow peace with all men" (Heb. 12:14). There surely was a good reason for God saying, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them" (Col. 3:19), don't you think? Bitterness can turn the best of friends into permanent enemies, drive happily-married couples to divorce court, and spark a civil war within what was once a stable, solid, and contented congregation. Satan must watch with glee as bitterness leads to turmoil within families and God's church. Bitterness damns. Quite simply, if God tells me to put away bitterness, and yet I do not do it (Eph. 4:32), then my sin of bitterness will keep me separated from Him and thereby keep me in a lost >

state. Back again to Hebrews 12:15, we see that the bitterness which troubles and defiles a person causes him/her to fail or fall short of the grace of God. No wonder the Holy Spirit exhorts Christians to look diligently lest bitterness spring up in our hearts (Heb. 12:15)!

A bitter disposition and bitter tongue do not jive with being a child of the living God. As we have seen, bitterness troubles, defiles, divides, and damns. Those truths get my attention. Do they get yours? Because “the heart knoweth his own bitterness” (Prov. 14:10), let each one of us look into his/her own heart, do some self-analyzing, and if bitterness be found, get rid of it.

## WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

### Author Unknown

They were looking for a lion,  
He came as a Lamb, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for a warrior,  
He came as a Peacemaker, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for a king,  
He came as a Servant, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for liberation from Rome,  
He submitted to the Roman stake, and they missed Him.  
They were looking for a fit to their mold,  
He was the mold maker, and they missed Him.  
What are you looking for?  
Lion? Warrior? King? Liberator?  
They were looking for their temporal needs to be met,  
He came to meet their eternal need, and they missed Him.  
He came as a Lamb to be sacrificed for your sin.  
Will you miss Him?  
He came to make peace between God and man.  
Have you missed Him?  
He came to model servant hood for all mankind.  
Have you missed Him?  
He came that we might have true liberty.  
Have you missed Him?  
He came to give you eternal life.  
Have you missed Him?

When we submit to the Lamb, we will meet the Lion. Join with the Peacemaker, and we will meet the Warrior. Work with the Servant, and we will meet the King. Walk with the Submitted, and we will meet the Liberator. Concern ourselves with the eternal, and we will have the temporal.

If Jesus is not fitting into the mold you have, then come to the mold maker and get a new one. Submit to His plan for your life and you will see the eternal need met first; then all the other things you have need of will be taken care of as well.

