

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
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COMPASS

**Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation**

For live video streaming see Website
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Elders:

Frank Bohannon
Jonathan Loveday
Larry McDuffee
Brian McLaughlin
Jon Tatum

Deacons:

Jim Bell
Charles Evans
Kyle Fairman
Dale Hennessee
Mike Isaacson
Doug Loveday
Don Napier
Tom Parham
Mark Roberts
Jason Wyatt
Jerry Wood

Ministers:

Barry Kennedy
Ken Mears

Missionaries: (India)

Don Iverson
Jim Waldron

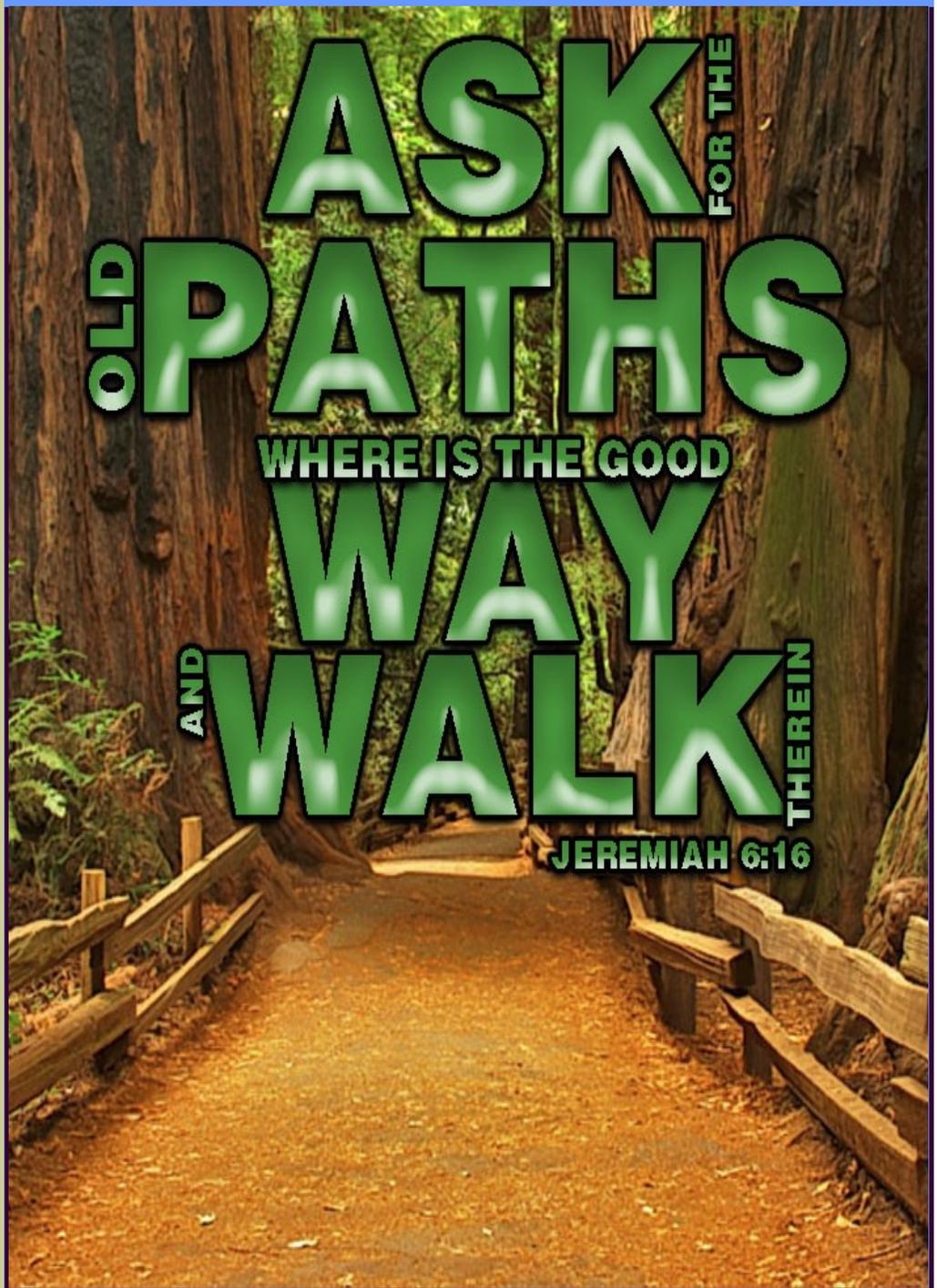
Service Times

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 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 |

October 15, 2017



A PICTURE OF CONQUEST

Matthew Martin

In Revelation 19, John visualizes the conflict between Heaven and Hell as though it was a battle between two great armies. Of course, Revelation is book written predominantly in metaphor so no one should anticipate an actual Lord of the Rings style fight between spiritual forces, but the words do mean something. What do they mean?

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 19:19-20

John says that the Devil is making his last stand. He gathers an army intending to “make war” (have an all-out battle) against Christ.

Spoiler alert: He loses.

The beast is “taken,” John says. In keeping with the military/wartime illustration, the Devil will try one final battle but he’ll be taken captive and his army will crumble without him. Everyone who made war against God will be “cast alive” into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. Interestingly, in the next chapter, John will call this “the second death” (ch20:6, 14), yet here he saw the guilty will be “alive” when they suffer this “death.” What is a living death? It’s an eternal separation. Those who deny the eternality of Hell would do well to read this chapter; the warning of it is prevalent throughout the text.

Hell is real, it is for the Devil and those who sided with him against God, and it is never-ending.

And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Revelation 19:21

Usually the word “remnant” is used in Scripture to refer to God’s faithful few who live among a majority of wickedness. Here, however, the context is of those who remained in the Devil’s army after the beast was captured. John is just taking his metaphor/illustration to its logical conclusion. The beast and his army made war, God captured the beast and slew the remnants of his army with His holy sword and left the carcasses to the buzzards.

But here’s where it gets interesting. Take the metaphor and break down the elements...

- How is the remnant of evil defeated? With Christ’s Sword.
- What is Christ’s sword? It’s His Word.

So how is evil overcome? How do we win? How is Satan defeated? Through the power of the Word of God.

We’re not called to wage a “holy war” like the Roman Catholics did during the Crusades or like Muslim zealots do today. We’re called to wield the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:10-17) and fight against sinners with the power of the Gospel. We win when we **convert**, not when we **kill**.

God will take care of Empires of evil; He will raise them up and knock them down according to the pleasure of His good will. All we need to worry about is being faithful to Him, staying in His army, and taking the Gospel out to the world. Every time we convert a soul we take one more soldier away from the Devil.

That’s a military conquest we all can get behind.



SEEK THE OLD PATHS

Benjamin R. Phillips

By the time of Jeremiah's prophecies, Judah had almost wholly given itself over to idolatry and wickedness. As God's prophet, Jeremiah was sent to call the people back. When you read Jeremiah 5 & 6 it becomes quickly apparent how depraved Judah was. It also becomes apparent that God intended to destroy Judah for its wickedness. God simply cannot allow evil to go unpunished, especially amongst His own people (Nahum 1:3). So what was God's messenger to reveal to Judah?

Jeremiah 6:16a says, "Thus says the Lord, 'Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it.'" God's advice to His people is twofold. First, they were to ask for the old ways. The old ways surely looks back to the Law of Moses and its instructions regarding worship and serving God. Their "new" ways of idolatry and pagan sacrifice were foreign to the God that had brought them into the land! Second, they needed to walk in them. Knowing the Law of Moses and doing it were two different things. They needed to be restored in their heart and service unto their God! Ultimately what God is demanding from His people is repentance; true and complete repentance that brought forth fruit for inspection.

What was the promised result of repentance? "Then you will find rest for your souls" (Jeremiah 6:16b). "Then" indicates that the promise was conditioned upon their repentance. God was offering them everything they wanted. They worried about attacks from the other nations and sold themselves out to the nations for protection. They sought protection from the elements and blessings from "gods." What they desired, rest, could only be found in and with God. But it was more than physical rest—It was spiritual rest! They could only have eternal salvation in God. God was offering them the greatest gift. All they had to do was return!

What was Israel's response? "But they said, 'We will not walk in it'" (Jeremiah 6:16b). The path was given to them, they did not have to grope in the dark to find it. The promise was the greatest man could receive from God. Yet Israel's response was one of defiance. These were God's children telling their Father, their Sustainer, their Savior—NO! We dare not tolerate such from our own children. What do we expect of God when His people tell Him no? No guessing is required to ascertain the answer. The book following Jeremiah, Lamentations, gives us the answer. God eventually brought destruction on His people.

What is amazing about this whole scene is that all the death and destruction could have been avoided by simply listening to God and ignoring their own arrogance and self-righteousness. But one must wonder if God's people in this age ever become a mirror image of the Judah of old. Do we look to money, possessions, notoriety, and friends for status and approval? Do we lean on our own understanding? Do we leave the "old paths" for the newer, better, more "open" way?

Does this describe your life? Have you left your first love? Believe it or not, God's message has not changed. If you will return to the "old ways," the Gospel of Christ through repentance then God will forgive you (Acts 8:22). He will receive you again into fellowship (1 John 1:5-10). So consider this day whether you are "seeking the old paths" and make the appropriate changes. If you do not do it now, you may find yourself, like Judah, facing destruction. Live faithfully to God and enter His rest!

