

**Crossville Church  
of Christ**  
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Live audio streaming  
866-883-9291

# COMPASS

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

For live video streaming see Website  
[www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org)  
Email: [Office@crossvillechurchofchrist.org](mailto:Office@crossvillechurchofchrist.org)  
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November 19, 2017

**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)

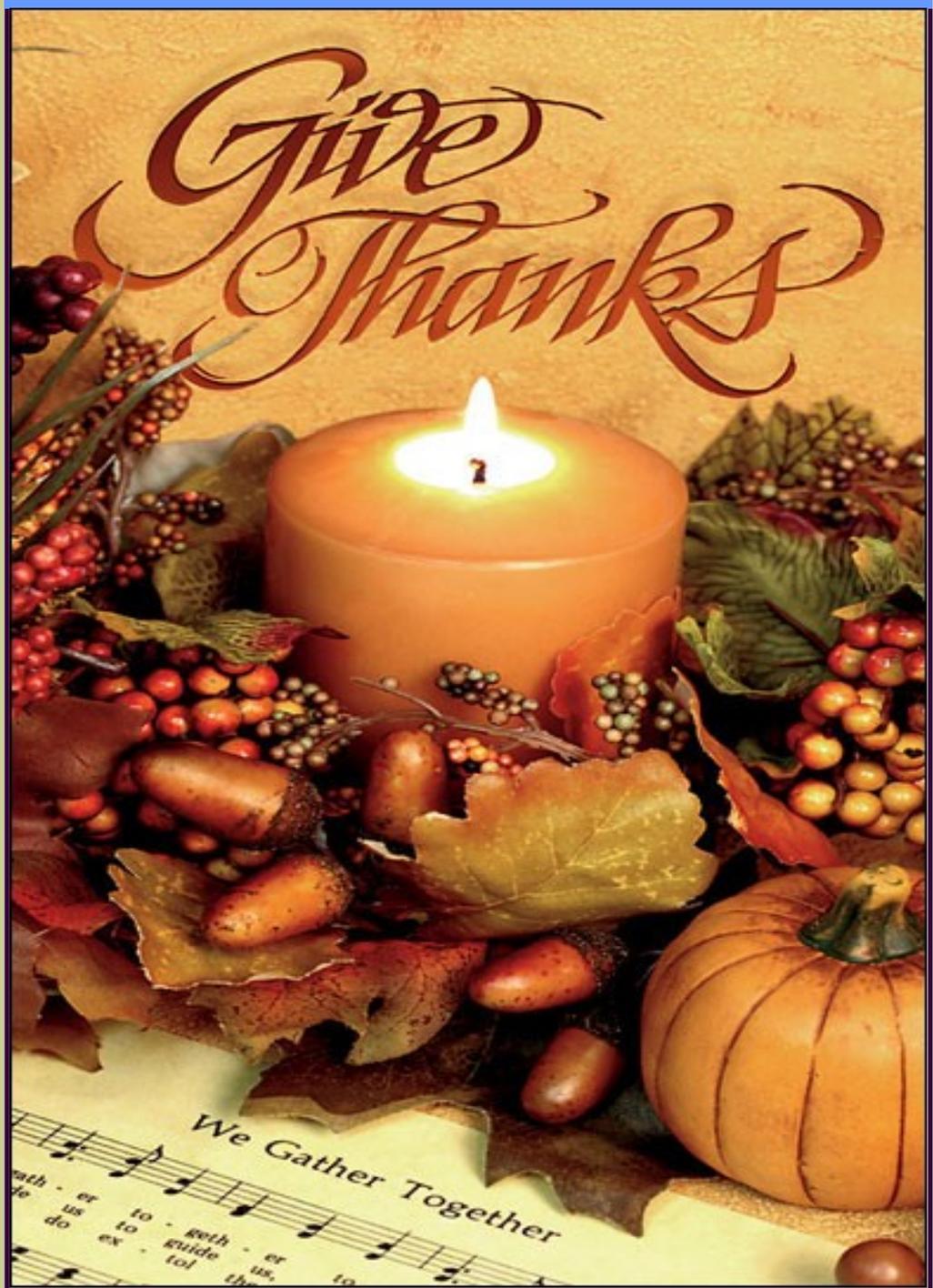
Don Iverson  
Jim Waldron

**Service Times**

Sunday Bible Study	9 AM
Sunday Worship	10 AM
	6 PM
Wednesday	6 PM

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

<b>Ladies Bible Class</b>	
Tuesdays	11AM
<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	
Tuesdays	10 AM
<b>Joyful Generation</b> (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM



## IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST SECTARIAN

Steve Higgenbothan

The distinctive and unique plea of the New Testament church has often been misunderstood as being sectarian by the religious world in general, and more recently, by even some of our own brethren. By making the claim that only those who are members of the church of Christ or Christ's church will be saved, some have accused us of being narrow and sectarian. One brother in Christ stated that the church of Christ was comparable to a "pick up football game" in the parking lot of a large football stadium. The boys in the parking lot think they are the only game in town, while the stadium is filled to capacity with fans watching a game in progress inside the arena.

Under the slogan of "We are Christians only, not the only Christians", another brother has said that we have crystallized and become to a large measure what we set out to oppose. He says, "Somehow those of us who make the plea for people to be Christians only have let that plea come out to the world something after this fashion: 'Come over to us, and be Christians only because after all, we are the only Christians.' That is arrogant, that is wrong, that is self-righteous, that is sectarian."

Are we really guilty as charged? When we make the claim that only members of the church of Christ (Christ's church) will be saved, have we become sectarian? Absolutely not! For when we say that the church of Christ alone will be saved, we are speaking of the church of Christ in its biblical sense (the body of all saved people), not a sectarian sense (one religious body among several other bodies). In fact, it is rather ironic that those who accuse us of being sectarian are the very ones who are sectarian (Romans 2:1). For when they say there are Christians outside the church of Christ, they are using the term "church of Christ" in a sectarian manner that is foreign to the Scriptures.

N.B. Hardeman once accurately stated, "There is but one church built on Jesus Christ, and that is the church about which you read in the Bible and of which every Christian on earth is a member. With this we ought to be content...My friends, God's church upon this earth is God's people wherever they are, and whosoever they may be." (The Hardeman Tabernacle Sermons). No, we are not sectarian for teaching that one must be a member of the church in order to be saved. This is what Paul taught. Take time to read (Eph. 2:16, 4:4, 5:23). There are but two realms wherein a man can stand today; the kingdom of God (the church of Christ), or the kingdom of Satan. Hence, it is not sectarian to teach that no one outside the church of Christ (i.e. church of the Lord, the New Testament church, the church of the firstborn ones...) can be saved. Only those who are in that one, universal body of called out people will be saved. Are you a part of that body?



## WHAT WE NEED

Barry Kennedy

When was the last time we considered what we need? Do we really take the time to think about the true meaning of the word need? Does it matter? There are many things in life that we truly need such as: air, water, food, shelter, clothing, and companionship. The problem is that we often substitute our wants for our needs. When we find ourselves trading wants for needs, it tends to lead us into the area of discontentment. Contentment is a mandatory part of the Christian's life. *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content"* (1 Timothy 6:6-8). Paul practiced contentment *"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content"* (Philippians 4:11). When we take into consideration the true definitions of terms we often use, it may cause us to reconsider our choice of terminology. That being said, what could we say that we actually need?

The word need carries the idea of necessity. Need describes something without which one could not live or survive. Therefore, at the top of the list would be our need for GOD. Sometimes we ask the question, "Where would we be without God?" The fact is we would not "be" without God (Genesis 1, 2). God is the source (John 1:1-5) as well as, the sustainer of life (Acts 17:28; Hebrews 1:3). God the Father desires fellowship with His creation. The problem is that sin severs our fellowship with God (Isaiah 59:1, 2). Reconciliation is needed for a restoration of that fellowship. Restoration, through the sacrifice of God's Son, is His plan (John 3:16). This message was delivered by inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). Therefore, the need for God is clearly seen when one considers the fact that *"all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

When one contemplates his true needs in life, it should take little effort to see that we have a real need for companionship. Think about how many mistakes that have been made by people seeking companionship. One mistake may be throwing away our self-esteem (Genesis 1:26). Self-esteem is an invaluable disposition. Of course one should never confuse self-esteem with arrogance. Humility is a characteristic of true Christianity (James 4:10); however, we are not to belittle ourselves into a state of feeling worthless, useless, or discarded. This disposition leads one into compromising convictions for the sake of companionship. It is true that we need companionship, but in what way? God said, *"It is not good that man should be alone"* (Genesis 2:18). True, but is that saying that everyone should be married? Paul encouraged some members of the Corinth congregation to remain single due to the present distress (1 Corinthians 7). Is this a contradiction? Is Paul going against God in his letter to the church in Corinth? Not in the least! Paul is simply stating that having God as your companion is far more needed than that of any earthly relationship (Matthew 10:32-39).

The Hebrew writer emphasized how that *"marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled"* (Hebrews 13:4). One must never compromise self-esteem to win a spouse. It should be the case that our spouse, or prospective spouse, encourages and elevates our self-esteem. That is the true companionship that we need and that is the true companionship that God offers to all who follow Him (John 10:10).

Finally, we all need forgiveness. We all find ourselves having weak moments. Temptations are everywhere and we need not forget that the temptations which torture us the most stem from our own lusts that *"war in our members"* (James 4:1). James said that we are tempted when we are *"drawn away of our own lusts and enticed"* (James 1:14). The fact that we have our own lusts and that we often give in to those lusts, lets each one of us know the real need we have to be forgiven. Jesus came to make that forgiveness available to all who will obey Him (Hebrews 5:8, 9). We need salvation (the forgiveness of sin) because our sins separate us from the companionship that we had with the Almighty. We need forgiveness of sin because without it we cannot have the true self-esteem found only in the body of Christ. John wrote it this way, *"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7). This verse clearly states how all of our needs can be met. What do you need?