

**Crossville Church  
of Christ**  
P.O. Box 211  
Crossville, TN 38557  
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# COMPASS

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

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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  
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

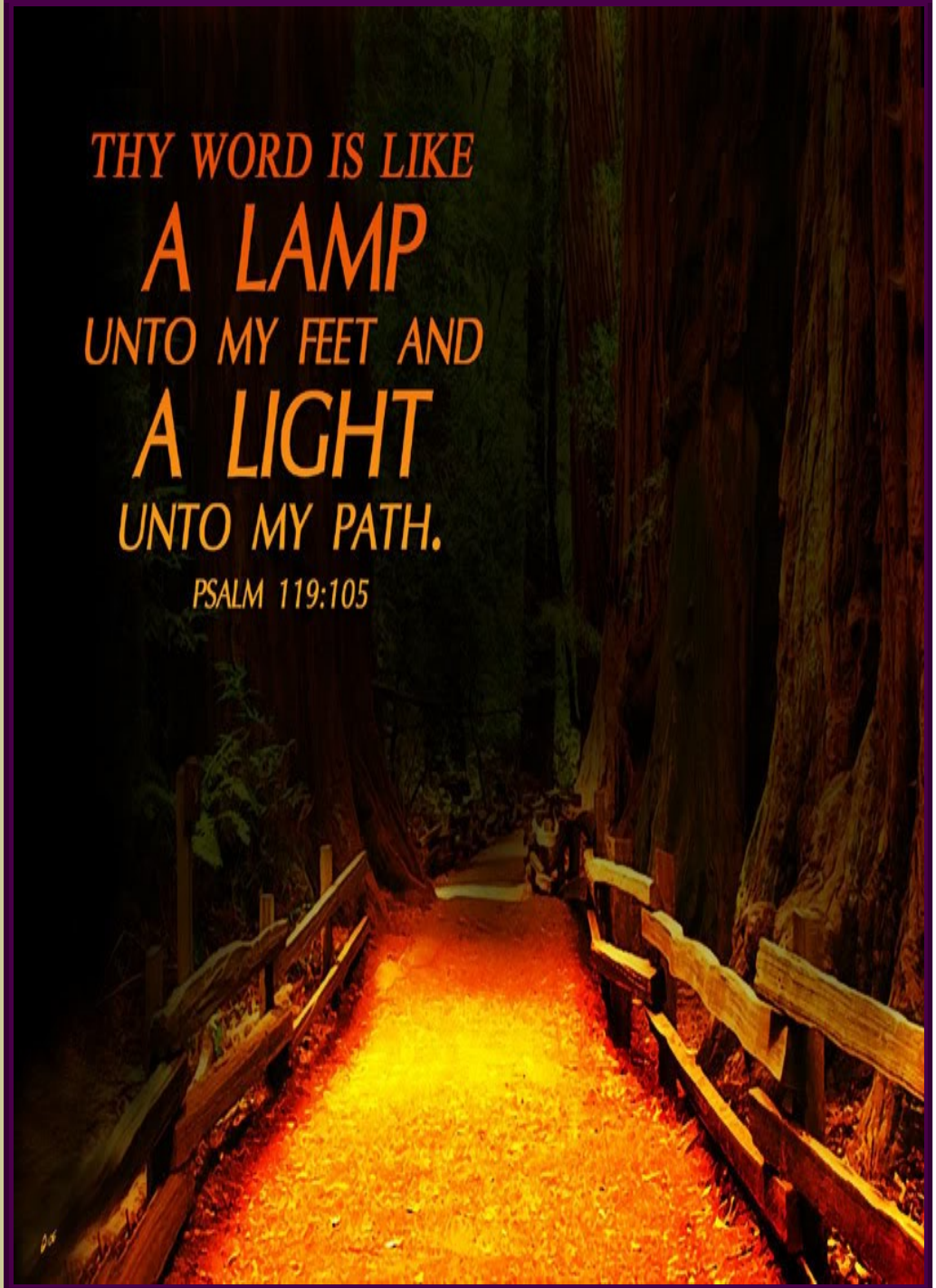
**OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

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

February 19, 2017

*THY WORD IS LIKE  
A LAMP  
UNTO MY FEET AND  
A LIGHT  
UNTO MY PATH.*

*PSALM 119:105*



# I WANT A CHURCH THAT MEETS MY NEEDS

**William Woodson**

The statement made in the title is not only the desire of many in the religious world, but is becoming the philosophy of many Christians, because many of us are seeking a religion that "meets our needs." The phrase itself has virtually become a new religious term. Many persons praise or blame a particular congregation because it is or is not "meeting my needs."

Let me hasten to say that if the phrase means that we need to satisfy spiritual hunger, then it is a good expression, for surely everyone ought to be in a Christian community where his/her deepest spiritual longings are being addressed. The voice of God needs to be heard through spiritual teaching, and we need opportunities to serve, love and be called to repentance.

But being a part of the church to some means reaching for goals of "self-actualization." So if the church doesn't fulfill certain expectations, wants and preferences, they must move on to another emotional department store with different merchandise more appealing to their "tastes."

Sadly, and probably without realizing it, many congregations have gotten into thinking that "we have to do all these things and plan all the activities to meet people's needs so they won't leave." Consequently, well-meaning leaders have turned God's church into a merchandising institution. So we promote this program and that program for this group and that group.

But, in my judgment, the system has become turned upside down from the way God intended it to be. Whatever happened to the attitude in a Christian's heart of "I'd like to be a part of this congregation because of what I can do to meet its needs?" When are we most fulfilled? When our needs are met, or when we meet the needs of God's church on this earth? We ought to be a part of a congregation not so our needs can be met, but rather so we may best meet the needs of God's work.

Christians need to recall the Truth of the scriptures that personal fulfillment is a great spiritual paradox. We are most filled when we empty ourselves and be filled serving others. Jesus taught us, "...whoever will be great among you, let him be your minister (servant)...even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister (serve)" (Matthew 20:26-28).

Paul said of his own heart, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). And again, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). "Reasonable service" is not being served (having your needs met) but serving (meeting the needs of others). We need to re-learn the axiom, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Let's not demand that God's church be a place where people (leadership or membership) cater to our desires and preferences. Let's turn it right side up again and be a part of a congregation, not for what it can do for us, but for what we can do for it!



## PROVOKING CHILDREN

**Allen Webster**

There are so many angry teens. Much frustration and angst, disrespect and rebellion. What's causing it? Hollywood? Music? Poor sports role models and star examples?

Possibly each of these contributes, but there may be another cause—an absent or distant father. Paul wrote, “Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

What are some ways we can provoke or anger our children?

We can “over-parent” (smother) them. “Helicopter parents” interfere with their children’s ability to interact naturally with other children and adults.

We can show favoritism: “Why can’t you be more like your brother or your sister?” Jacob made that mistake in favoring Joseph (Genesis 37).

We can force our unfulfilled dreams on them. “I didn’t get to be a physician, son, but you will be!” But what if he wants to be a forest ranger?

We can be hypercritical of them and withhold our approval from them (Matthew 7:1–2). We can focus so much on what they aren’t doing, that we can’t see what they are doing. We should affirm our children whenever possible. Someone said, “A father needs to be on his child’s team—not on his back” (cf. Romans 14:19). As fathers we can set an atmosphere of construction instead of destruction!

We can make them feel unimportant. How many dads send this message to their children: “You are not as important to me as my job, my TV program, my iPad, my sports team, or my fishing trip”? Spending time with our children is the best way to show our love (Ephesians 5:16) and often means more than spending money. Money can buy a toy, but without a daddy to share in playing with it, it is no fun. Sometimes fathers have to say, “I have to work today, or take care of this responsibility right now, but we’ll have fun when I get back.” It is important, of course, to keep that promise when we get home.

J. Paul Getty was at one time the richest man in the world. But J. Paul Getty Jr. rarely saw his father. When he was in high school, Getty Jr. wrote a special letter to his father in which he expressed his feelings.

His father sent the letter back to him with every grammatical and spelling error marked in red pencil. There was no personal response from his father.

Getty Jr. summed up that experience by saying, “I never got over that.”

We can be unapproachable. According to a USA Today poll, when teens are under stress or in a crisis, they turn first to music, second to their friends, and third to TV. Moms came in at number 31. Fathers barely showed up at number 48. In the magazine, *Seventeen*, only 4.1 percent of the teenage girls in America felt they could approach their fathers and discuss a serious problem. We should work on being approachable by listening, taking time, following up, and not overreacting. Fathers, instead of provoking our children to wrath, let’s provoke them unto love and good works (Hebrews 10:24).

