

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
P.O. Box 211
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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
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

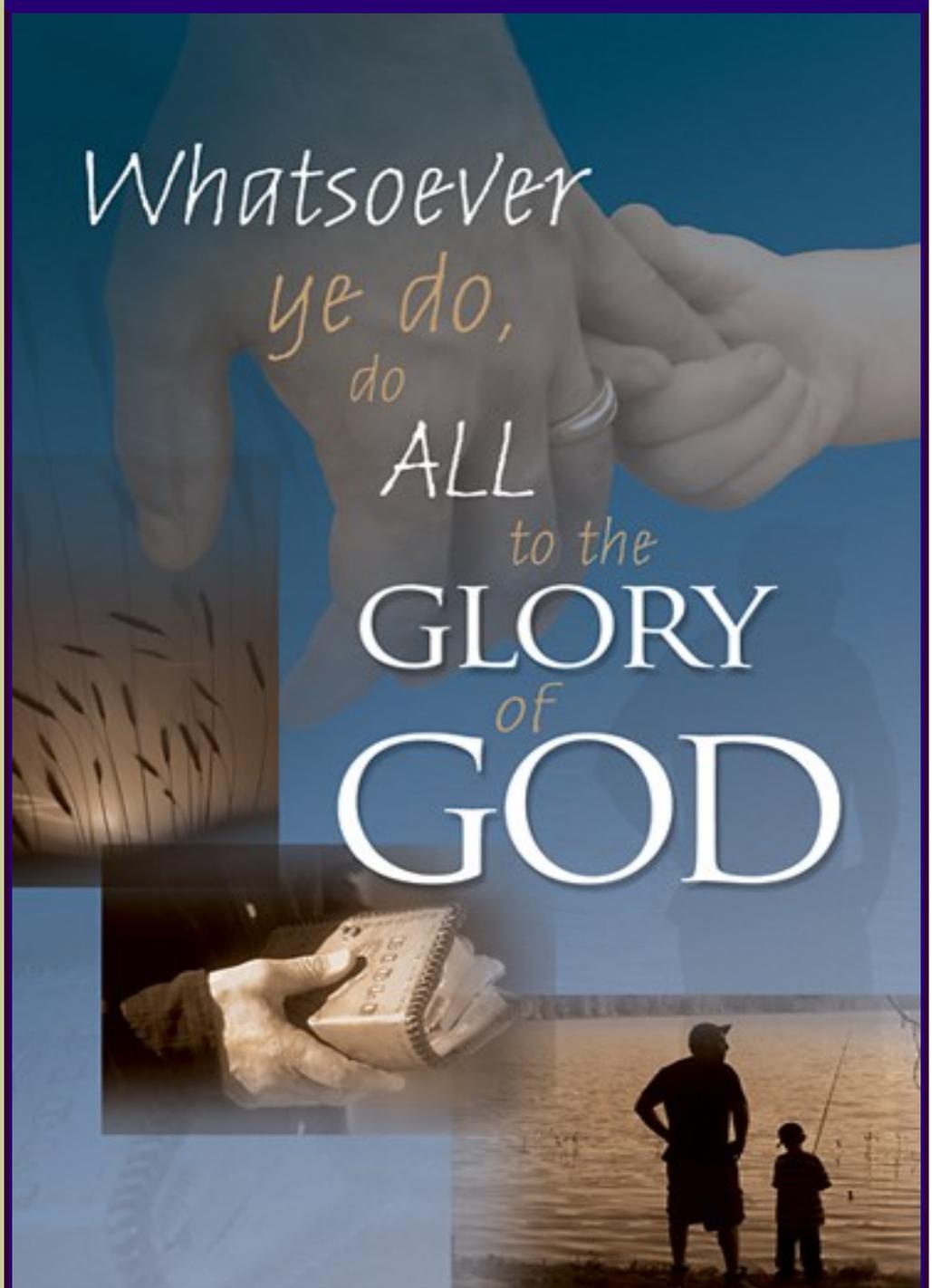
Service Times

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

June 18, 2017



HOSPITALITY

Derrick Coble

A Mother invited some people to dinner. At the table she turned to her six year old son and said, "Would you like to say the prayer?" The boy said, "I don't know what to say." "Just say what you hear daddy say" the mother said. So, the little boy commenced to pray and said, "Why did we invite all these people to dinner?" Hopefully, this doesn't sound familiar. The idea behind the inviting was all about being hospitable but somewhere along the way it turned into necessity rather than hospitality. What has happened to hospitality in the world? What has happened to hospitality in the church? What do we mean by being hospitable? Webster tells us hospitality means "receiving and entertaining strangers or guests generously and kindly without reward." It also means, "the act of hospitable treatment, reception, or disposition." The word itself is used four times within the New Testament. Paul said all Christians must be "**given to hospitality**" (**Rom. 12:13**). Peter simply states, "**Use hospitality one to another without grudging**" (**1 Pet. 4:9**). Finally, the elders of the church are admonished by Paul to be lovers of hospitality (Titus 1:8) and given to hospitality (1 Tim. 3:2). Thus, hospitality is something worthy to be desired and practiced by all Christians.

HOSPITALITY IS NEEDED NOW There was a time in this country when hospitality was a common practice. Before my great grandmother died she would tell me stories of how she used to live by the railroad tracks and at times people would wander up off of the trains and she would feed them. Whatever happened to that kind of hospitality? It isn't that we must compromise our safety and take in any stranger off the street, but have a mindset to truly receive others in a kind and genuine way. Jesus taught this principle well (Mat. 25:34ff) and it should be noted that hospitality extended toward others by way of food (2 Sam. 17:26-29), lodging (2 Kings 4:8-10), or an encouraging visit (2 Tim. 4:11-13) is comparable to hospitality extended to Christ (Mat. 25:40).

HOSPITALITY IS NOT NEW Hospitality is not a new commandment but one that is old stemming out of love (2 John 1:5). Perhaps, the greatest example of hospitality is that of Abraham (Gen. 18:1-8). He knew how to make his guests feel welcome by running to meet them. He knew how to treat them by offering them a seat for rest in a shady spot under a tree. He even fed them for the journey upon which they would embark. What an example for our learning (Rom. 15:4)!

CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY IS NOT PRACTICED ENOUGH Now you may be thinking, "Times have changed—we have motels now and most people can find food for themselves, and you never know who might steal from you or do something to harm you." Unfortunately, this is true; however, it does not excuse anyone from practicing hospitality. There are other ways to be hospitable than taking strangers into our homes. Think of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-35). Why do we classify him as good? Did he take the man who was robbed and left half dead home with him? No, but he was hospitable by binding his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and leaving him at an inn. He took care of the man this way. Furthermore, in illustrating faith and works, James indicates that if we help someone with those things that are needful to the body without respect of persons that is a good hospitable deed. "**If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?**" (**James 2:15,16**). The answer to this question is, "nothing." Therefore, the work of hospitality in this situation would be the only way to solve the problem. Someone has said, "If hospitality were a medicine it would cure everything, if it were a key it would open every door, and if it were a sports star it would be the most valuable player." Let us all think about what more we can do to exhibit this lost quality in our lives.

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

Jeremiah Tatum

When I was 16 my father and I climbed a mountain. We were in Yosemite National Park. We used to live just a few hours from there and to this day it is my favorite place on earth. In the past we had hiked up into Tuolumne Meadows to various mountain lakes. But on this occasion we were headed towards Half Dome. We were not planning on going to the summit, but only to some of the falls along the way. I knew what we were doing and why we were doing it. I knew I was going to enjoy sharing the day with my dad.

Isaac once climbed a mountain with his father, Abraham. It was not a recreational journey. They were going to worship (Gen. 22:5). Still, as a teenage boy, you can imagine that Isaac anticipated the moments he was going to spend with his father. Isaac carried the wood and Abraham carried the fire and the knife. As they ascended Mount Moriah, Isaac began to wonder why they did not have an animal with them for the sacrifice.

Abraham explained to his son that God was going to provide it. What Isaac did not know is that God had decided that Isaac was to be the offering. Yes, Isaac—God's gift to Abraham and Sarah. So when they had come to the place of sacrifice, Abraham built an altar, laid the wood on it, and tied Isaac up on top of it and stretched out his knife to slay his son (Gen. 22:10).

It brings into one's mind to consider what Isaac was thinking. When his father began to tie him up, was he afraid? Did he ask his father why? Did he fight any? The Bible does not say. What is revealed is that Abraham drew the knife back. He was going to do it. He was going to obey God no matter what.

The rest of the story is well known to the Bible reader. God stopped Abraham from killing Isaac, and a ram was provided instead. But that still leaves us with the question – What did Isaac learn? I have climbed some mountains with my father, and I imagine you have climbed a few with yours. Some mountains are not located on maps, and cannot be scaled on foot. But life brings us tests and struggles. Our will is challenged. Our obedience is demanded. Our faith is proven. It is in the faith that we display on these mountains that we learn the greatest lessons in life.

I am certain that Isaac never forgot that trip with his father. I am certain that he learned about faithful and willing obedience. I am certain that he learned to fear God. In fact, later in Genesis, God is literally called “the Fear of Isaac” (Gen. 22:42, 53). Faith from a father was thus given to a son forever.

If you have had a father that respected and feared God, be thankful. The faith of our fathers is living still.

Faith of our fathers, living still,
in spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy,
whenever we hear that glorious Word!
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.
~ Frederick Faber and James G. Walton



NEWS AND NOTES

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