

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
P.O. Box 211
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Live audio streaming
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COMPASS

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

For live video streaming see Website
www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org
Email: Office@crossvillechurchofchrist.org
Elders@crossvillechurchofchrist.org



Elders:

Frank Bohannon
Jonathan Loveday
Larry McDuffee
Brian McLaughlin
Jon Tatum

Deacons

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

Ministers:

Alan Judd
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	11 AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation	
(Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7 PM

POLISHING THE PULPIT

(PTP) 365 Audio/Visual Library
available at:
<https://365.polishingthepulpit.com>
Username:
Crossville church of Christ
Password:
crossvilleptp2018

December 30, 2018

Be of good courage,
and he shall strengthen
your heart,
all ye that hope
in the Lord.

Psalms 31:24 KJV



HOW MANY STARS?

Alan Judd

It was roughly 150 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem when Hipparchus, the leading astronomer of the day announced that there were 1,022 stars in the sky. This number was accepted as the standard until about 150 years after the birth of Jesus when Ptolemy, the leading astronomer of his day announced that four stars had been missed in previous calculations and the accurate number was 1,026 stars. Both men and other intellectuals of that era scoffed at the idea presented in the Bible that the stars were too numerous to calculate.

God promised Abraham descendants as innumerable as the stars in Genesis 15:5 and Genesis 22:17. The prophet Jeremiah recorded the words of God who uttered: “As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me” (33:22).

Scientists and other supposed experts alluding to these words ridiculed the Bible and declared it was mistaken. The stars were not innumerable, the Bible was false and should not be heeded they declared. Then 1300 years later around 1610, a young medical student invented the first telescope. With this crude instrument, by today’s standards, he peered deeper into the night sky than anyone ever had before and quickly realized that millions upon millions of stars were in the universe.

As technology has rapidly developed and with the dawn of the Space Age, our nation and other nations have spent untold amounts of money in designing tools to be able to gaze deeper and deeper into our galaxy and beyond. How many stars are there? Has man been able to finally get an accurate count? The latest estimate, which will probably have changed by the time you read this article, puts the number at 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. This is a number so large we do not have a name for it—a billion trillion, but this is not the actual number because it keeps increasing as our abilities to see stars improves.

The words of God recorded by Jeremiah are completely true: “the host of heaven cannot be numbered.” Want to know something even more amazing? Read these words from Psalm 147:4-5: “He (God) counts the number of the stars; He (God) calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His (God’s) understanding is infinite.”

You have probably heard the radio commercial inviting you to send money to the International Star Registry and have a star named after someone you wish to impress. In return, they will send you a piece of paper with no Scientific or other value and a guide to aid you in locating the star that supposedly now bears the name given by the gullible person willing to outlay money to provide you with this “unique gift.”

God has already named them and He alone knows how many there are. You may wonder why I have spent an entire article talking about stars? Simple: the God we serve is AWESOME! As we prepare to end 2018 and anticipate the beginning of 2019, I am encouraged by knowing He is great and powerful. I am also humbled and love the fact He knows me and is interested in my life as Psalm 8:3:4 affirm: “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” What does 2019 hold in store? Will it even come? I do not know, but I know the One who not only numbers the stars but also names each one!

REFLECTION

Jeff and Dale Jenkins

As we find ourselves in the middle of the Holiday season and rapidly approaching the end of the year it might be a great time for reflection.

Sometimes we are forced into reflection; when we lose somebody close to us, when we are going through a serious illness, when we lose our jobs or feel the need to move, or when we feel that we are growing close to the end of our usefulness. But the end of a year is a good time for us to choose on our own to reflect on where we are in our life and work. Some might ask, why is reflection good for us?

Reflection helps us put our life in perspective.

Reflection allows us to measure how we are doing with our life goals.

Reflection, along with prayer causes us to remember the need to more fully trust in the Lord.

Reflection highlights areas of life we may need to correct or even change.

Reflection challenges us to reach out to mentors, leaders, family, or co-workers when we need special assistance.

Reflection causes us to examine our spiritual walk rather than focusing on others.

Reflection drives us deeper into the text.

Reflection helps us see what we need to spend more time praying about every day.

Reflection causes us to be still and quiet, so that we are drawn closer to the heart of God.

“Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the Lord.” (Lamentations 3:40)

“I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies.” (Psalm 119:59)

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves!”
(2 Corinthians 13:5)

Dear God, during this busy season, help us to reflect on our life and our great need for You. In the Name of Jesus, we Pray, Amen.