

**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
Email: Office@crossvillechurchofchrist.org
Elders@crossvillechurchofchrist.org



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:

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:

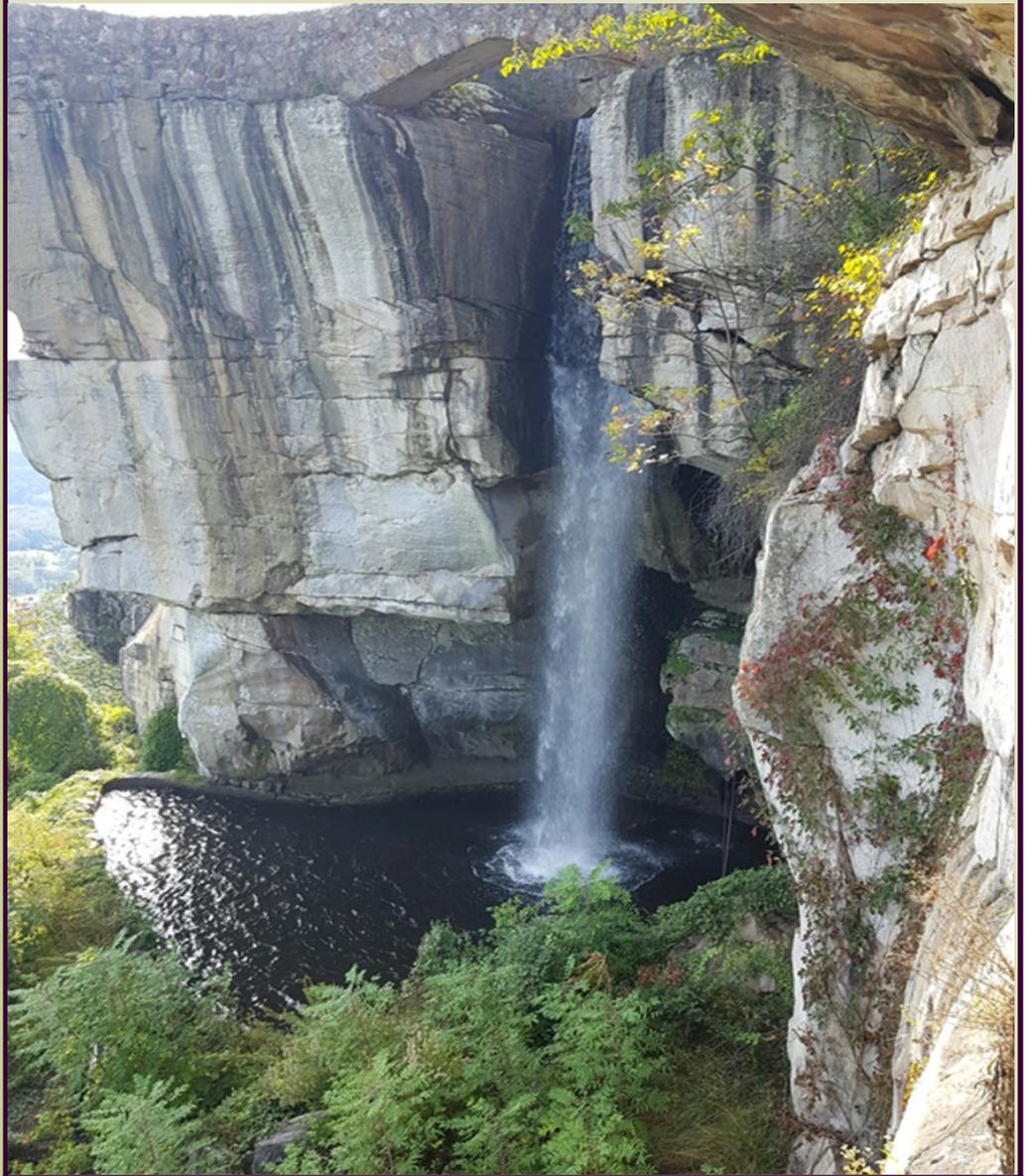
Ladies Bible Class	
Tuesdays	11 AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7 PM

POLISHING THE PULPIT

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

October 28, 2018

*“This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous
in our eyes.” Psalms 118:23 KJV*



IMPOSSIBLE RESPONSIBILITY

Alan Judd

Sometimes we grow accustomed to hearing things repeatedly and we lose the impact the sound is supposed to have. If you read Aesop's Fable *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* you can appreciate the concept I am referencing. Recently, Adam and I were listening to a UT football game on the radio and he commented on a certain commercial. Since the game was not going in favor of the boys in orange, I was upset and not really paying attention to the advertisement for the Tennessee Lottery. Apparently, after extolling many of the supposed benefits that result from playing the lottery, the announcer urged the listeners in closing to "please play responsibly." Upon hearing this admonition, Adam retorted: "That's not possible!"

Since I had not paid close attention I had to ask for clarification. He explained that playing the lottery could not be done in a responsible manner since it involved the wasteful use of the blessings God provides. With a little prompting he provided additional arguments to back up his original premise.

Interestingly, as we continued to listen to the game we heard another commercial that concluded with a similar end line, but this one urged: "please enjoy responsibly." Again, Adam gave the same rebuttal he had offered earlier and declared that responsibility is impossible while engaging in this sort of activity. As you might assume, this commercial was an advertisement for an alcoholic brew, and my 11-year-old son understood more than multitudes of those older than he that responsibility is impossible when drinking intoxicating beverages.

Why am I telling you about this? Yes, I am bragging a little because these were what I like to call "happy dad moments." I was delighted to see how he was able to incorporate what his mother and I have tried to teach him into a practical situation of life. My prayer is that my sons will continue to put the Word of God into their minds and hearts and that God would give them the wisdom in knowing how to "live out" the information from Scripture in their day to day life.

However, I want to dig deeper into the fallacy Adam was able to recognize, but it is one many Christians miss. Stated simply: God grants no approval for participation in sin. Notice I placed a period at the end of the previous statement. The devil likes to lie and tell people that a little flirting or playing with sin is acceptable and will not bring any harm. Allow me to illustrate.

Just have a little wine or a couple of beers as long as you do not get totally inebriated is a lie Satan has told millions through the centuries. Yet, the wise man warned in Proverbs 20:1: "Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise." In the same book of wisdom at 23:29-35, the folly of partaking in the alcoholic brew is vividly described. How does a person reach such a sad state where he has "sorrow, wounds without cause, redness of eyes" and other negative side-effects? It started with the first drink. The individual may very well have fallen for the lie that they could drink responsibly.

What about the compulsive gambler, the addicted drug user, the sexually promiscuous, and others enslaved to various sins in addition to the alcoholic already noted? In many cases, their sad state might be the result of a choice that started long ago with the false belief they could handle sin responsibly. Such responsibility with sin, wickedness, and ungodliness is not possible. Instead, we must "Abstain from every form of evil"—1 Thessalonians 5:17.

THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE SKUNK AND THE SNAKE

Neal Pollard

Some time ago, I wrote, “I passed by a skunk and a snake, fighting tooth and nail. I didn’t stop and pet either or take sides. I got out of there as fast as I could.” That was metaphorical rather than actual, though I’ve had encounters with each animal individually. My point had to do with some of the “fights” that regularly occur on social media about some of the most unnecessary causes.

The common ground of these posts and articles are their extremely polarizing effect, drawing a multitude of allies and opponents. So often, they relate to matters that, of themselves, will not effect a single person’s eternity (though the poor stewardship of time, emphasis, tone, and attitude might imperil more than a few).

I have been tempted to weigh in on probably a thousand of these spats and civil wars, but I do not. It’s not that I do not have decided views on nearly all the debates. Instead, I try to project myself into the future. Will it expand my influence for Christ for good? What will my comment add to the spirit of brotherly love, magnanimity, unity, and church growth? Will I truly be helping struggling souls? Will it elevate the view of Jesus’ bride in the eyes of the lost, the weak, and the wayward?

After reflecting, the answer is always the same. I cannot answer that for my interjecting brethren. Nor am I one to avoid preaching or personally discussing matters because they may be unpopular or alienating. However, because social media is more impersonal and lacking in the interpersonal dynamics of face-to-face interaction, we run a much greater risk of being misunderstood.

Today, controversy can be created in real time. As a good friend of mine put it, “Everybody has a megaphone now.” What really requires courage is stepping out from behind a computer or phone and personally interacting with someone we disagree with in civil, loving discourse. It may not foster page views, mass reactions, and reams of online comments, but in the end it may reach more hearts and minds.

In our current culture, dividing people into camps against each other is incredibly easy. But is it wise? Is it right (Proverbs 6:19b)?

