

**Crossville Church  
of Christ**  
P.O. Box 211  
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Phone:  
484-5297 or 484-2960  
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)  
[Elders@crossvillechurchofchrist.org](mailto:Elders@crossvillechurchofchrist.org)



May 13, 2018

## CROSSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 11 ~ 15

Beginning with Kick-Off  
Sunday, June 10



**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:**

Ken Mears 484-6033

**Missionaries:** (India)

Don Iverson (828) 963-5172  
Jim Waldron (865) 310-4527

**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

## WHY DON'T MORE PEOPLE OBEY THE GOSPEL?

**Ken Mears**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:16-17). “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). Jesus said, “Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father” (John 10:17-18). In view of the fact that God loves man so much that he gave his only begotten Son and the Son was willing to suffer the awful death of the cross, we are prompted to ask the question, “Why don’t more people obey the gospel?” The apostle Paul was also troubled by the fact that those who were hearing the gospel were not obeying it. He makes this statement in Romans 10:16, “But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?” A failure to believe God is one reason why more people do not obey the gospel.

When Jonah entered the city of Nineveh and began to proclaim that the city was going to be overthrown, the Bible says, “So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them” (Jonah 3:5). It is also said of Abraham, “For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Romans 4:3). There is a difference in believing in God and believing God. Those who believe God are those who believe what God has said about the judgment. “For it is written, As I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Romans 14:11-12). “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he has raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:30-31).

In the following passage, the apostle Paul gives another possible reason why some do not obey the gospel. “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit, the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes” (Romans 3:10-18). People may not fear God now but they will in the final day.

Some may not obey the gospel because they have not had the opportunity to hear the truth. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher” (Romans 10:13-14)? “So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21). God has only one plan to reach the lost with the gospel of Christ and that is through the teaching of his word.

Some may not obey the gospel because they are so deep in sin that they are unwilling to repent. Some may go on in sin because they do not have to suffer the consequences immediately. It is like buying things with the credit card; it is fun at the moment but the day comes when we must pay up. Some may have allowed their conscience to become “seared with a hot iron” (1 Timothy 4:1-3). They have heard and they know the truth but they have rejected the truth so often that they feel no remorse at rejecting the invitation of Christ. that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah could be saved (Genesis 18:23-32).

It is the case that the great majority of people have never been willing to serve and obey. In the days of Noah only eight souls were saved (1 Peter 3:20). Abraham could not find 10 righteous people so that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah could be saved (Genesis 18:23-32). The Jews were told to stand in the old paths; they said they would not (Jeremiah 6:16). The preaching of John the Baptist was rejected (Luke 7:30). Many rejected the preaching of God's own son (Matthew 11:20-23; 23:27). Out of the great multitude of people who were gathered together in the city of Jerusalem, on the day of Pentecost, and heard Peter announce the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, only 3,000 obeyed the gospel on that occasion. It is sad to consider the reality of Jesus statement in Matthew 7:13-14 where he said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth to life, and few there be that find it."

Our Lord said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

If you are reading these comments and have not obeyed the gospel, it is not too late.

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