

**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
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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
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

August 19, 2018

Wednesday Night Summer Series (2018)

OH I WANT TO SEE HIM!

Join us each Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 p.m. July-September

JULY

July 4: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Created Me"

Wayne Lankford, Murfreesboro, TN

July 11: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Provides for Me"

Steve Higginbotham, Knoxville, TN

July 18: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Comforts Me"

Glenn Randolph, Fairfield Glade, TN.

July 25: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Teaches Me"

Jason Gann, McMinnville, TN

AUGUST

August 1: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Came For Me"

Justin Morton, Knoxville, TN

August 8: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Lived For Me"

Alan Judd, Crossville, TN

August 15: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Died For Me"

Clarence DeLoach, Cookeville, TN

August 22: "Oh I Want To See the One Who Rose For Me"

David Lipe, Cookeville, TN

August 29: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Mediates for Me"

Dale Barger, Wheeler Hill, TN

SEPTEMBER

September 5: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Forgives Me"

Ben Bailey, McMinnville, TN

September 12: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Encourages Me"

Jeff Archey, Cleveland, TN

September 19: "Oh I Want to See the One Who Loves Me"

Derrick Coble, Sparta, TN

BE DILIGENT

Alan Judd

I make my living with words. Some of them are written, but many of them are spoken. Consequently, I try to continually expand my vocabulary and enhance my grasp of what I have already utilize. I aim for clarity of expression, but this does not mean that simplicity is pursued to the exclusion of comprehensiveness. (Some might object that the previous sentence is not written with clarity.) Etymology, at least in my way of defining the word, is the study of the origin of words and how their meaning might have changed over time and from language to language. This type of research is especially instructive and fascinating when examining words found in the Bible. Our English Bibles are translations from the original Hebrew and Greek used by the authors of Scripture and this means sometimes we can discover a richer and fuller understanding of the text if we investigate the original word usage and do an etymological study of the term.

Most of us committed 2 Timothy 2:15 to memory in earlier years and we probably utilized the King James Version which reads: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” Using this text preachers, Bible class teachers, and parents directed young people under their influence to spend much time in reading and thinking about the Word of God. Such an admonition ought to be heeded by young and old alike, but looking at the original word used by Paul reveals additional treasures conveyed by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Paul used the Greek term *spoudazo*. The word rolls beautifully off the tongue. It is translated ‘study’ by the KJV, ‘be diligent’ by the NKJV, and ‘do your best’ by the ESV. Etymologically, the word originally meant “to hasten, hurry” according to Thayer, Arndt & Gingrich and other linguistic experts. Other definitions include: “to be zealous or eager, take pains” and a definition I think captures the thought of Paul well: “make every effort.” Paul was instructing Timothy he should use his best efforts to do as God had commanded and especially as it relates to “rightly dividing the word of truth”, which actually means ‘to cut straight.’ (That is a study we will have to do in another article.)

Harder in *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* notes the word is “used to characterize the total conduct of the Christian in the sense of an actualizing of his saved position.” It is the proper response to what God has done for us through Christ. Concerning how this understanding ought to produce diligence or zeal he continued: “It (zeal, diligence) is not to be lacking in anyone. It is thus part of being a Christian. . . .the true Christian who knows what he is and who is not going to lose what he has been given.” Bauder in the *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology* summarizes the meaning of *spoudazo*: “the whole conduct of life must be molded by it, if the Christian is not to lose what he has been given and risk failure to reach the goal set before him. It expresses something of the greatness of the Christian’s responsibility for the development of his life.”

Thus, we see the need to hasten or hurry and give serious attention and spare no effort in conducting our lives in the way God has instructed. We can better do this through study of His Word as the KJV translators understood by their translating the term in this way, but I hope now you have a deeper appreciation and understanding at what Paul was communicating when he gave Timothy this divine directive. May God help us all have greater *spoudazo*!

“ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS”

Gary McDade

The sword of the Spirit is the word of God. It is the offensive weapon in the list of Christian armor in Ephesians 6:10-18. It is a sharp two-edged sword. It is capable of dividing asunder soul and spirit and joints and marrow. It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb. 4:12). It is the word of Christ (Col. 3:16). When from the Isle of Patmos John saw Jesus Christ he fell down at his feet as dead (Rev. 1:17). What did Jesus look like? “And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength” (Rev. 1:13-16).

The word of God is living, active, and powerful (Heb. 4:12). It will not return to God void but will accomplish his purposes (Isa. 55:8-11). It will be the standard in the judgment (Jn. 12:48-49; Rev. 20:12). It is not the word of men but of the living God (1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16). It will remain when the world is on fire! (Mt. 24:35).

People are very careful around cutlery. I have known several people who have lost digits in cutlery accidents. The blade is sharp and the steel is unforgiving. The sword of the Spirit has no sheath to protect the guilty from its edge. The sword of the Spirit is not carried about in a scabbard but wielded openly. It is not a surgeon’s scalpel with its razor edge directed by nimble fingers nor a battle axe with imprecise strokes of brute force. The sword of the Spirit has the power to cut sin out of the hearts and lives of men and women (Acts 2:37, NKJV) and point them to heaven (Psa. 73:24).

The Conquering Christ The closing words of the Bible picture the conquering Christ. It would do the church well today to be reminded that Jesus Christ has never relinquished his position as Captain of the Lord’s host. The cruel, raging battle between the Savior and Satan will come down to the end of the world. Among the final scenes of the world’s existence will be the descent of Jesus Christ from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and have not obeyed the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Mt. 16:27; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). If we anticipate standing with him in victory over his foes at the last day, we must put on the whole armor of God today! Look at Jesus Christ through the prophetic eyes of the apostle John as he saw him from Patmos. “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Rev. 19:11-16). “Onward, Christian Soldiers!”

