

Crossville Church of Christ

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COMPASS

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

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July 1, 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

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	11AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM

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



SEEKING THE LORD

John B. Jenkins

“That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us” (Acts 17:27).

Man is so irrepressibly religious that his entire history has manifested a conspicuous trait of his nature, which is a constant search for a supreme being. This does not vary with continent or culture, for in all areas of the earth, and all states of society, there is abundant evidence of man's eternal quest for God. This unending and universal search for God may find expression in primitive ways among the uncivilized peoples, but the attempts of the savages to find God only confirm the contention that man is incurably religious. Confirmed infidels have found times when they had a positive and undeniable urge to find God. One of the most celebrated of these was reported to have uttered in dying,

“O God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul, from hell, if there be a hell.”

It is doubtful that any honest man, however wicked and unbelieving, can say that he never, at any time, felt a need for God.

Many Scriptures, such as the one above, refer to this natural inclination of man. This passage and others relating to the subject exhort man to seek the Lord and presuppose a right and a wrong way of doing this as, they educate man in the proper approach to God. Just as there are proper and improper sources of our physical needs, there are also improper sources of our spiritual needs. We do not obtain food from rocks, neither do we find God except in the proper place. God warns that He may be sought and not found.

“They shall seek me early, but they shall not find me” (Prov.1:28).

Since zeal alone is an insufficient guide in man's search for God, let us observe where God is not found, then see where He may be located.

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen.1:1). Pantheism states that the universe taken as a whole is God. Although God is the Creator of the material world, man's spiritual needs cannot be satisfied by materialism, for God is not found there.

“God does not dwell in temples made with hands” (Acts 17:24).

The great error in heathen worship was seeking God in material things (Romans 1:22-23). This concept of seeking God is continued by many religionist of our day, as they suppose that God is found in graven images, or magnificent structures. Others think that God is to be found among the socially elite, the popular, the majority, or among those of great wealth. But it is vain to search for God in a religion which caters to these sections of society, for the humble religion of Christ has never appealed to these. Not many of the proud have ever become humble and responsive to the gospel call (1 Cor. 1: 26-27). *“That no flesh should glory in his presence” (1 Cor. 1:29)* keeps God away from the assembly of the conceited.

Perhaps the most common error in man's quest for God has been the tendency to elevate some man who is considered wise to the point of infallibility in religion. God is not found in human wisdom, nor does human wisdom in itself lead one to God, for He is found through the revelation of Divine wisdom. Paul stated,

“Not many wise men AFTER THE FLESH, not many mighty, not many noble, are called” (1 Cor. 1:26).

It seems that much human wisdom in our day is aligned together in defiance of God, and of His existence. But the omnipotent God has declared,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise” (1 Cor. 1:19).

He will make all men to see that

“The FOOL hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psm. 14:1).

The “mighty minds” of earth have no priority to spiritual knowledge, for God is available to all men.

God has made Himself easily accessible to the lowest and the greatest. We are not left to grope in darkness in seeking Him, nor are we left to stumble into the deep pit of religious error in our efforts to find Him. Neither do we have to rely on our own faulty understanding, for God has revealed to man where He may be found.

God is revealed to us in His word. This is the source of our knowledge of and acquaintance with God (Psm. 119:105).

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork” (Psm. 19:1).

We can hear the voice of God only His Word. This is why we must discredit “visions,” phantoms, apparitions, “angels,” “voices,” and “irrestible forces operating directly”- for God speaks to us through His Word (2 Peter 1:3).

God can also be seen in the expression of His will. Just as we can determine the nature of a government by the laws it enacts, we can see the nature of God in His great plan for the redemption of mankind. Here He demonstrates His love, mercy, wisdom, and His justice (Romans 11:22). When we consider that God had such great love for fallen man that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16), and that His Son had to be obedient even unto death (Heb.5:8), then we can see why God requires that we obey His Will in order to be the recipients of His grace (Romans 6:17-18). God is also portrayed in His Son, through whom “he has spoken to us in these last days” (Heb.1:2). Jesus was “the express image” of God (Heb.1:3). “No one has seen God at any time” (John 1:18), but Christ was such a perfect exhibition of God that He declared,

“He that hath seen me hath seen the Father” (John 14:9).

The modernist, who would destroy the Divinity of Christ, would destroy our perfect exhibition of godliness, as well as the only way man can come to God (John 14:6).

God is also found in the church for which His Son died (Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28). To the church at Corinth, Paul wrote,

“What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them” (2 Cor. 6:16).

The inherent idea of a temple, even among the heathen, is the dwelling place of Deity. To be where God is, or dwells, then one must be among His people in the church. We read that “the Lord adds the saved to the church” (Acts 2:47). Jesus, who said “I will build MY church” (Matt. 16:18), has decreed,

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).

When we meet these conditions, we become a part of the temple, where we have found God, and then can dwell with Him.

