

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
P.O. Box 211
Crossville, TN 38557
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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



May 20, 2018

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

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

CROSSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

VBS THEME: GOD'S TEMPLE

Classes will begin at 6PM each night.

MONDAY: Solomon Builds the Temple

TUESDAY: The Jews Rebuild the Temple

WEDNESDAY: Jesus in the Temple

THURSDAY: God's Temple Today-His People

FRIDAY: Pizza & awards



“A PECULIAR PEOPLE”

John B. Jenkins

The apostle Paul describes the dual purpose of the death of Christ in these words,

*Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us
from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar
people, zealous of good works (Titus 2:14)*

The phrase “*a peculiar people*” is also used by the apostle Peter to describe the people of God in this Christian era (1Pet. 2:9). In the Mosaic dispensation, the Jews were the only people with whom God made a covenant (Eph. 2:12) and this made them a peculiar treasure unto God above all people (Exod. 19:5).

The adjective “*peculiar*” in these verses means “*particular*” or “*singular*” and includes the conduct of the individual as well as their unique position in the favor of God. In this generation, when pressure is upon the individual to conform to the social pattern, the desire of God that his people maintain their distinctive qualities must be kept in mind at all times. Paul opposed conforming to the worldly standards, as he instructed the Christians in Rome to “*be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds*” (Rom. 12:2). A component of “*pure religion*” is to “*keep himself unspotted from the world*” (James 1:27).

The responsibility for possessing particular, or singular, traits which distinguish a peculiar people does not end with the compliance of the individual. The phrase “*a peculiar people*” is a collective term, and each usage in the Bible is in the plural number. This is obviously true in the first text noted above, for Christ died for all men, not just one individual (Heb. 2:9). The same ones, who “*as lively stones are built up a spiritual house*” (1Pet. 2:9). The spiritual house, composed of peculiar people, is the church (1Tim. 3:15). Just as Paul states that “*Christ gave himself for us to purify unto himself a peculiar people*” he also states that “*Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it*” (Eph. 5:25). Thus the church of Christ must be different, or singular, for being faithful to Christ requires such action.

Everything about the church of Christ in your community is very simple and unpretentious. It is not the purpose of the church to please the vanity of man, or to court the favor of the proud by a display of vain things. It is not the purpose of the church to entertain, or amuse people when they come to worship (1Cor. 14:40). As “*the pillar and ground of the Truth*” (1Tim. 3:15), the church is to “*hold forth the Word of Life*” (Phil. 2:16). In fulfilling this function, the church is a simple New Testament body, striving to lead men and women to an understanding of the plain teaching of Christ, and, in so doing, to lead them to God through Christ. Paul was afraid that the Corinthians, in a worldly environment, and under the influence of false and worldly teachers, might be “*corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ*” (1Cor. 11:2). This condition which Paul feared is present in the lives of many people today, who suppose that the church is in competition with the restaurants and places of amusement. The organization of the church of Christ is very peculiar in the modern religious world. There is no creed book, catechism, manual, or discipline. The only rule of faith and practice is the Word of God, which will “*furnish the man of God completely unto every good work*” (2Tim. 3:16). The organization of the church, as clearly set out in this divine pattern, differs greatly from the pompous displays of worldly organization in modern religions. Each congregation is self-governing, with a plurality of “*elders in every church*” (Acts 14:23), to oversee the affairs of the congregation which they serve (1Pet. 5:1-3). No hierarchy, councils, conventions, or conferences of men with ecclesiastical

(cont.) titles are authorized by the Word of God.

In the worship of the church of Christ there are no ready-made prayers to recite, or to have read to you. From the depths of earnest hearts and sincere souls the people, through Christ, express to God their gratitude and their requests for His blessings, and for His sustenance in every human need (1 Tim. 2:1), with the assurance that “*the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*” (James 5:16). There is no ready-made music in the worship of the church; no instruments, choirs, or quartets to replace that which the New Testament authorizes. Everyone “*sings making melody in their hearts to the Lord*” (Eph. 5:19). Since each week has “*the first day*,” Christians continue to “*break bread*” in commemoration of the death of Christ on that day each week, as directed by the New Testament (Acts 20:7; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 10:16) The work of the church is supported financially in the only way which has Divine approval.

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come (2 Cor. 16:2).

No promotions, rummage sales, or begging campaigns are engaged in when men follow the Divine plan.

If men today will proclaim the simple message which was proclaimed in the first century; if men will worship God in the simple sincere way that the early church worshipped; if they will have the exact organization by which the early church did it's work; and if they will serve with the holy, earnest consecration of first century Christians, presenting to the lost and dying men the same plan of salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38), then they too will be a peculiar people for the Lord. If all who profess to be religious will possess these “*particular*” or “*singular*” traits then the battle against sin can be concentrated on one front instead of on the multiple and diversified confusion of the nearly 300 fronts in the religious world today. Whether you realize it or not, you will find at the church of Christ exactly what every sincere and earnest soul is searching.

TWELVE REASONS WHY FAMILY DEVOTIONALS ARE IMPORTANT

1. They unify the family and sweeten the home life.
2. They cultivate Christian graces and relieve tensions that sometimes threaten family unity.
3. They aid boys and girls in becoming Christians, and help them to develop ideals and Character.
4. They yield spiritual resources for daily tasks and cultivate dependence upon God.
5. They strengthen in the face of adversity and enable greater trust in Christ.
6. They make us conscious of the daily abiding presence of our Savior and Friend.
7. They allow others to know that we are Christians.
8. They undergird the teaching of Bible class.
9. They afford the opportunity to pray for and to sharpen our concern for the lost souls.
10. They give the right place to spiritual values and reduce concern for the temporal things in an age of materialism.
11. They encourage practical Christianity.
12. They honor God and provide an excellent outlet for the expression of our gratitude.

— Author Unknown

“Ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house...”

Deuteronomy 11:19