

**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
Elders@crossvillechurchofchrist.org



April 15, 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

**You Are Invited To Attend Our
Annual
SPRING GOSPEL MEETING**

Gospel Theme: "Does Jesus Care"

May 6 ~ May 9

Sunday: Bible Class 9 a.m.

Worship 10 a.m.

6 p.m.

**Potluck fellowship meal immediately
following morning worship service**

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday @

6p.m.

Guest Speaker: Alan Judd



WHAT CONTROLS YOUR LIFE?

Ken Mears

The Bible recognizes the fact that we are going to be controlled by something or someone. “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Romans 6:16). Jesus said, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24). While no man can serve two masters, he will serve one and he will be controlled by that master. You and I serve some master and we are controlled by that master. Just what is it that controls our life?

Some people’s lives are controlled by sin. I John 3:4 says, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” The word transgression means lawlessness. Lawlessness is the opposite of righteousness. In this verse the law which is under consideration is the law of God. The word committeth means that one keeps on doing sin. The one who keeps on doing sin is in the habit of being lawless. In this same chapter, in verse eight, John says, “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” If one chooses to practice lawlessness, Satan has become his master. Our Lord said, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lust of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it” (John 8:44). When a person is controlled by lawlessness it is the result of his own choices. “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempted he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust has conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:13-15). There are grave consequences for those who choose to be controlled by sin. “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). To please God we must get out of the sinning business and into the business of doing righteousness.

There are people whose lives are controlled by guilt. One man said, “It is 9:30 and it’s time to kiss my wife. I really don’t want to, but if I don’t I will be in the doghouse.” This is the basis for the activity of many people who claim to be Christians. They give, pray, attend services, teach and read the Bible not because of any real conviction or love for the Lord but because of guilt if they don’t do it. If we claim to love the Lord and know what his will is and we don’t do it, we should feel guilty. However, a life that is built entirely on guilt will prove to be a very miserable life.

Some allow material things to control their lives. The Lord warned, “Take heed, and be aware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15). The story of the rich farmer is a good example of an individual who allowed his material possessions to control his life. The farmer had been blessed to the extent that it was necessary for him to tear down his old barns and replace them with newer and larger barns. When all of his crops had been harvested and stored in his new barns, he said to himself, “Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee:

then whose shall those things be, which thou has provided? So is he that layeth up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:19-21). Of what value were his possessions to him when death came?

Why is it important for us to be concerned about what controls our lives? If things control us, we usually lose our joy when they're gone. If Christ controls our lives, our joy can never be taken from us. Even though he was in prison when he wrote the book of Philippians, the apostle Paul never lost his joy. His joy was in the Lord Jesus Christ and no matter where he was or what happened to him, no one could take away his joy.

What really controls our lives? Are we in danger of losing our joy?

KEYS TO A HAPPY LIFE

Charles Box

In the book of Philippians Paul offers several keys to happiness. Some people are happy; others actually work at making themselves and those around them miserable. Let us all use these keys and learn to be happy.

Receive grace and peace from Jesus Christ: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:2). Always focus on the good things of life, especially on forgiveness and hope.

Remember to be thankful: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5). Be thankful for other people and for the good they do. Be thankful for salvation, the church, and the opportunity to serve.

Remain humble and have the spirit of Christ: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). If you think too highly of self you may get to feel sorry for yourself. Both attitudes will make you miserable. Those with a humble, Christ-like spirit find happiness regardless of circumstances.

Renounce complaining and murmuring: "Do all things without complaining and disputing" (Philippians 2:14). Those who hold grudges and complain about every little slight will always be miserable. You also guarantee yourself and others misery if you think you are entitled to special privileges.

Rejoice in your relationship with the Lord. "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice" (Philippians 4:4)! True happiness belongs to those who are "in Christ." Christians have much to rejoice about, especially forgiveness.

Realize God's care for your life: "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Money is not the answer. God is the answer to man's needs.

Do not feel sorry for yourself. Lift up your head and heart. Be thankful and enjoy the peace of God. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

To become a Christian you must hear the gospel and believe (John 6:44-45), repent of sins (Acts 2:38), confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3-4). After baptism we must remain faithful (Revelation 2:10).