

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



**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:**

<b>Ladies Bible Class</b>	
Tuesdays	11 AM
<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	
Tuesdays	10 AM
<b>Joyful Generation</b> (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 5, 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

## A PRISONER OF THE LORD

### ALAN JUDD

I have never served time in prison. I hope that truth is comforting to you. You may consult with the Elders if you wish to verify this with a review of my criminal background check. A failure to come to a complete stop at an intersection is the only moving violation blemish on my driving record of which I am aware, but that is a discussion for another day.

With no prior felonies or misdemeanors in my past and with no intention to commit any in the future, I only plan on visiting prison facilities to teach and preach the Word of God to those incarcerated. However, I boldly declare my goal to make myself a prisoner. A prisoner of what or a prisoner of who you ask? I want to be and I want you to be a prisoner of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior!

The apostle Paul used this designation for himself on five different occasions. Ephesians 3:1: “For this reason, I, Paul, the *prisoner of Christ Jesus* for you Gentiles.” In the first verse of the next chapter: “I, therefore, the *prisoner of the Lord*, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called” (Ephesians 4:1). Once this identity was used in his writing to his young apprentice: “Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me *His prisoner*, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God” (2 Timothy 1:8). Twice, it was used by the man of God in his letter to Philemon in verse 1 of that beautiful entreaty: “Paul, a *prisoner of Christ Jesus*, and Timothy our brother” and again in verse 9: “yet for love’s sake I rather appeal to you—being such a one as Paul, the aged and now also a *prisoner of Jesus Christ*.”

Some might assert this language was used because the preacher was actually imprisoned when he wrote these inspired documents and that observation is correct. In fact, he had been imprisoned at multiple times and in multiple places according to the New Testament record. However, I think the apostle had a deeper meaning when he used this expression. Philippians 1:13 helps support this suggestion when Paul comments: “it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that *my chains are in Christ*.” In other words, Paul was not restrained on account of civil or criminal wrongdoing, but due to the providence and purpose of God. In fact, his imprisonment emboldened others to preach the Gospel and the spread of the Good News to the Gentiles was largely accomplished through these trials of Paul. While incarcerated, he was able to write the epistles that spread the truth throughout the world and still instruct us today. Moreover, Paul is informing us we are all prisoners of something, if only our egotistic ambitions or sinful lust. The followers of the Christ must be prisoners and held captive not with chains and shackles, but to the will of God which they lovingly submit to. Yes, dedication and faithfulness to the Lord is required even if it results in physical incarceration like it did for Paul and countless others throughout history.

“Though he (Paul) might seem to be helpless in the hands of his Roman custodians, it is ‘the Christ Jesus’—Jesus in His capacity as Messiah—who has made him prisoner.” (Interpreter’s Bible pg. 664) Are you a prisoner of Jesus Christ? You don’t have to wear handcuffs or a striped suit, but you do have to obey the Gospel. Paul did not despair even in a Roman dungeon, because he knew who had put him there. Become a prisoner of Christ Jesus today!

## I CAN'T DO THAT

### DERRICK COBLE

One Sunday the preacher asked, "Who is on the Lord's side?" Every hand was raised high in the air. He then asked, "Who will work for the Lord?" Again, every hand was raised high in the air. Finally he asked, "Who will do anything for the Lord?" To his surprise, every hand was still raised high in the air. He then said, "Good! We need a volunteer." Every hand dropped. This story may sound humorous but too many times it is true. The church is filled with infamous figures like "Can't" who never could, "Try" who never would, and "Work" who never should. These people are germs to the body of Christ and even contagious at times. Does it not matter that God wants all to abound in His work (1 Cor. 15:58)? Does it not matter that all are charged to be "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" (Rom. 12:11)? To some the answer is, "No" because when asked to do the most miniscule work in the name of the Lord (Col. 3:17), hastily comes the reply, "I can't do that." This is simply a flimsy attempt at masking the real reason behind the excuse. Note the excuses that follow:

"I can't do that. I have a yard to mow, garden to tend, car to wash, etc." When a child of God makes a statement like this, he is essentially saying, "I don't have time." To these, the apostle Paul says to redeem the time (Eph. 5:16). Yet, time is not really the issue—everyone has the same amount of time (24 hours every day). Many others find time for the Lord's work and still tend to those things mentioned above. The issue is a lack of commitment, concerning which the Lord said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

Another popular excuse is, "I can't do that. I have never done it before." Once again, the real statement should be, "I don't want to." The fact is it doesn't matter what one has done before; it is possible to learn how to do something different if one will only try. None of the twelve disciples of the Lord had ever preached, cast out demons, or healed any sicknesses. They were ordinary men. Nonetheless, when Jesus told them to do so they did not neglect their work (Mat. 10:1-7). Finally, some may say, "I can't do that. I have to take my children to sports practice/games, work, go to the beauty shop, etc." In essence, these Christians are saying that they love the world too much to serve the Lord. Sports are good if they are not substituted for God. This is precisely why John resounded, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world" (1 John 2:15). There is nothing wrong with working unless one is gathering riches to the neglect of the Savior. "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:23). There is nothing wrong with cleaning up with new haircuts and hairdos unless focus has switched from spiritual beauty to physical beauty. "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised" (Pro. 31:30).

All in all, everyone can make the decision now to do more for the Lord. When a volunteer is needed, why not step up to the challenge? How can anyone expect for the Lord to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Mat. 25:21) when he will not serve? Always remember, no matter how big or small the work is, "your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

