

**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<br>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<br/>(Youth Devotional &amp; fellowship)</b> |       |
| 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

**November 4, 2018**

“The Lord upholdeth all that fall,  
and raiseth up all those that be  
bowed down.” Psalm 145:14



# NO BIG DEAL!

Alan Judd

Do you have an easy-going personality or are you a difficult person? It might be uncomfortable to answer, but it is likely you know which of the two descriptions best fits you. Most of us would probably declare that we are somewhere in the middle and in fact, the Bible supports the idea that some things should be ignored, but other matters should be resisted no matter the cost. For the most part, I think (my wife, sons, and some of you might strongly disagree) that I am easy going, but what does that really mean? I cannot supply a comprehensive answer that would address every situation, but I suggest it means that I am usually easy to please and do not have to insist on getting my way in every circumstance. On a side note, there are various websites available that help in allowing the person to get a perspective outside themselves as it relates to their personality.

Many times, I quickly dismiss things that others might allow to produce frustration. I usually do so with these three little words: “No big deal.” By the use of this phrase, I am informing the person I will not get “bent out of shape” or “fly off the handle” as a result of their informing me of some incident. Today, at lunch I wanted the salmon patties listed on the menu, but after taking my order the waitress was forced to come back and apologize telling me they were not available. What could I do? I could get mad, raise my voice, spew hateful words about why the menu has a listing for an item that could not be produced, walk out of the restaurant, and go home sullen? Or, I could do what I did, which was kindly request the country fried steak instead. While I love salmon patties, the fact they were not available was no big deal in the grand scheme of things. I still received food to satisfy my appetite and I can cook salmon patties at home anytime I choose.

I offer this lengthy introduction to highlight what I believe has already become a serious problem in our world. Most people treat sin as if it is no big deal. That is, they just brush it off without giving serious consideration to the severity of sin. Unfortunately, many suppose sin does not even exist. This may come as a result of their atheism or agnosticism concerning the existence of our Creator. Others, while giving some credence to God’s existence, nevertheless have a skewed understanding of His holiness and think that His love and grace outweigh anything negative like sin and disobedience. God will overlook it all since He is a God of love they assert. Sadly, some today even flaunt sin and fall under the same judgment Jeremiah noted about those of his day when he observed: “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush” (Jeremiah 6:15, 8:12).

Examining the testimony of Scripture reveals that sin is a big, very big deal to God if we might borrow that phraseology. The world of Noah’s day—Genesis 6-8, Sodom and Gomorrah and surrounding cities plus Lot’s wife—Genesis 19, Nadab and Abihu—Leviticus 10, a man picking up sticks on the Sabbath—Numbers 15:32-26, Achan and his family—Joshua 7, and Uzzah—2 Samuel 6:6-8 are just a few examples of how God dealt out punishment for sin in the Old Testament.

Many people read these accounts and think they are severe, but we are looking at sin from our perspective instead of seeing sin as God does. What happens if I slap a rock? Not much. If I slap a puppy? Some might want severe punishment, but not most. What if I slap my spouse or a police officer? Probably jail time will result. What if I slapped the President or some other world leader? I might be sentenced to death. What happens when by my sin I “slap the face” of the God of the universe; what do I deserve?

Yet, the amazing truth of the Gospel is that even after offending the Holy God, He is willing to forgive and save me! How? His son, Jesus died and bore the penalty I deserved for my sin. Sin is serious, it cost Jesus His life. Do not think it is no big deal. Do not minimize it! Instead, obey Jesus and the Gospel today and be saved from your sin by receiving the forgiveness He alone can offer to you!

## BELONG

### Adrian Judd

I was watching the NFL's Eagles and Titans game about four weeks ago. At the end of the game, I was extremely happy with the outcome. It was exciting to me for the Titans to beat the Eagles. Why was I happy? One reason is the Titans are my team. I keep up with them, I watch or listen to every game I can, and I always root for them no matter who they are playing. I am ecstatic when they win and extremely disappointed when they lose. You might say I belong to the Titans fan base.

While on earth we can belong to many groups, organizations, or clubs. Everyone wants to feel like they belong to someone or something. Belonging to a group can help us formulate goals and attitudes in keeping with the purpose of the group. Belonging can give us a feeling of fulfillment or purpose when the goals of the group are accomplished. As a member of the Titans fan base, my goal was for them to beat the Eagles and win every game they play. All I can do is cheer them on during each game, but it is the players and coaches that determine if they achieve victory.

The best group you can belong to is the Lord's Church. The Church is made up of imperfect people serving the perfect God. God wants us to do our best, but we will often fall short and sin against Him. Thankfully, He offers us a way to be right with Him and to be saved from the penalty of our sins. That way of salvation is called the Gospel, which means good news. As Christians, we are not sinless, but we must do our best to sin less. We are called to put others before ourselves and treat them as we would like to be treated, according to Matthew 7:12. We strive to help and not hurt each other. As Christians we all have the same goal of getting to heaven and trying to take as many with us as possible.

Unfortunately, Jesus says many choose not to belong to His way and follow the path which leads to life, as Matthew 7:13-14 teaches.

It is not a sin to belong to some earthly groups. For instance, God created the family to be a wonderful thing. However, if we put our families before God, then we are in the wrong, as Jesus taught in Matthew 10:37: "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." We need to set our priorities properly. Anything we put ahead of God is a sin; it does not matter if it is a sports team, your family, a wooden idol, or anything else. I go to worship every time the doors are open, unless my physical health restricts me. I plan to do that when it will be my decision and not my parents' choice for me. I may miss parts of the Titans games. However, watching or listening to those games is not as important as worshipping God. God sent His Son, who lived a perfect life and died an excruciating death for my sins. The least I can do is to obey Him and worship Him every time I have the opportunity.

On judgment day there is only one thing that will matter and membership in only one group will count. Did you faithfully belong to Christ's body which He shed His blood for? Even if you belonged to the most prestigious family, famous club, or fantastic fan base while here on earth, it will be of no value to you in eternity. If you did not become and live as a faithful member of Christ's body, you will find yourself in a place of eternal punishment. On the flip side, if we continue to belong to Christ till our last second, we will be found in a place of eternal happiness called heaven.

Whom and what do you belong to?

