

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
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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



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
Wednesday	6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class	
Tuesdays	11 AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7 PM

POLISHING THE PULPIT

(PTP) 365 Audio/Visual Library
available at:
<https://365.polishingthepulpit.com>
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Crossville church of Christ
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crossvilleptp2018

September 16, 2018

You Are Invited To Attend Our Annual
FALL GOSPEL MEETING
Gospel Theme: "Questions Asked of Jesus"

MEETING DATES

Sunday, October 14 – Wednesday October 17

SCHEDULED SERVICE TIMES:

Sunday, 9a.m., 10a.m., and 6p.m.

Guest Speaker: Lennie Reagan



Topics:

1. How many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Mt. 18:21
2. Who do you say I am? Mt. 16:15
3. What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him? Mk. 4:41
4. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Mk. 8:36
5. Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? Lk. 18:18
6. Who art thou, Lord? Acts 9:5



TEAMWORK

Alan Judd

I remember receiving it and wearing it with pride. It was a simple gray t-shirt, but it could not be obtained from any department store and online ordering was not yet a possibility. It was distributed exclusively to the 1993-1994 Jackson County High School Basketball team and I counted myself fortunate to be a freshman member of the group. I could wear it to school and everyone who saw me in the halls or classrooms would know my status. Perhaps, I gloried too much in being a part of the team, but in Gainesboro it was a big deal to be on the squad.

On the back of that shirt was a large basketball and the word team spelled out vertically, which enabled the designer to use the letters of the word as an acrostic that produced this memorable phrase: TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE.

The idea and concept conveyed by those four words is essential to understanding the purpose and potential of a team. We had some good players that year, but one was exceptional. He was a senior my freshman year and went on to play college basketball after graduation. (He now lives and is a member of the church in Robertson County, TN.) He could shoot, drive, defend, rebound, and do about anything one should do on a basketball court and he did all those things well. However, as I reflect on his skill I think his greatest talent came in the way he made others around him better. He passed to the open man, helped on defense when someone else allowed the opponent to get around them, and other intangible things not always recorded on the score sheet. Why did he do these? He was interested in the success of the team above his own personal success. What was the result? Our t-shirt gave the answer: TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE.

This past Wednesday and at other times over the last two and a half months this congregation has shown great teamwork in helping my family in numerous ways. Wednesday was all about moving boxes and furniture and more than two dozen folks joined in the work, I mean fun. It was marvelous feeling the love you have for us and watching the cooperation you showed in working with one another. Some washed dishes, some brought supper, some helped assemble, some drove trucks, but everyone declared their love loudly and for that we will forever be grateful and indebted to each of you!

As I thought about my high school t-shirt, I would like to modify the original slogan I mentioned above, even though it would apply to the work of the church. Instead, I want to improvise slightly and suggest TOGETHER ETERNAL (LIFE) AWAITS MORE.

Yes, I snuck in an extra word, life, and TELAM does not have the same ring as TEAM. But, let's give some consideration to our cooperative effort for the Lord in this place. If we work together, then we can ensure that together eternal life awaits more. How? We will combine efforts and energies and most importantly, we will partner with God in proclaiming the soul-saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please understand, I am not suggesting my efforts or your efforts or our combined efforts apart from the blessing of God will produce anything worthwhile or lasting. However, I am encouraging all of us to remember that some of us can plant and others can water, but God has promised when we do these things to give the increase as 1 Corinthians 3:5-15 assures.

Moving is tough and tiring, but you lightened the load considerably when as a team we worked together. Preaching and teaching and working in the kingdom of God is tough and tiring, but when we work together as a team with the support of God and confidence and direction found in His Word, we will accomplish much more than we could trying to do it alone. Best of all, when we show by our actions and attitudes our desire to be on God's team then we will have the marvelous hope of knowing that TOGETHER ETERNAL LIFE AWAITS MORE! If you are not on God's team, or if you are not cooperating as a part of the team, please make that right this very day!

SHOULD WE ENJOY LIFE?

Alan Judd

The book of Ecclesiastes contains the musings of the Preacher, and many identify him with Solomon, but we cannot know this with certainty. However, the experiences of the author in trying to find purpose or meaning in life from temporal pleasures or riches fit within the descriptions Scripture gives of the reign of Solomon. Regardless, many interpretations of the book focus exclusively on the memorable conclusions: *“Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Many suppose that this eliminates the possibility of enjoyment or fun during our earthly sojourn, but is this the message of Ecclesiastes or the rest of Scripture?

A closer examination reveals that the author actually enjoins the enjoyment of life and the gifts God gives as a lot or heritage. These “enjoy life” refrains are found seven times in the book, and they escalate in intensity as the author advances his argument.

They are as follows: 2:21-25, 3:9-13, 3:16-22, 5:16-20, 8:14-17, 9:7-10, 11:8-10. Now some have read and interpreted these passages in an attempt to advance the ancient philosophy of Epicureanism, which stated simply is: *‘Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die!’* Epicurus, a Greek philosopher who lived about 300 B.C., advocated a form of hedonism, but not the reckless indulgence of all pleasure such as is commonly understood today. He advocated living a simple life and gaining knowledge of the world, and taught that the “gods”, if they existed, were uninvolved and uninterested in this world.

By contrast, the book of Ecclesiastes instructs us to enjoy life because it is a gift, lot, or heritage as already noted. In 9:7: *“Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy,”* is an imperative that the author expects to be obeyed. Likewise, in 11:9: *“Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes.”* These commands seem at first glance to be at variance with instruction like that found in 1 John 2:15-17: *“Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”*

What does it mean to love life and the world if it’s passing away? And if I’m meant to enjoy God and live for Christ first and foremost, how do we keep them in proper balance? The rest of Ecclesiastes 11:9 reads: *“But know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.”* This sounds more in line with the two verses of Ecclesiastes and on the standard analysis most give to the book as noted in the introduction.

It must be remembered who the source or giver of gifts and pleasure is. Humanity’s problem is that too often we worship the gifts instead of the giver. This leaves us searching for fulfillment in people, stuff, position/power, money, etc., but never realizing that all of these in themselves will leave us empty. C.S. Lewis said it beautifully in *The Four Loves* on page 13: *“Natural loves that are allowed to become gods do not remain loves. They are still called so, but can become in fact complicated forms of hatred.”*

Instead, when we worship God and understand that He is the gracious giver of all good gifts and wants us to enjoy them within the context of His will, we will live life fully and savor every blessing. We will be people of joy irrespective of setbacks and situations that seek to frustrate us in life. We will cause others devoid of this joy to inquire of us where we found it, and the wonderful opportunity to share the good news of God’s love with them will present itself. Finally, we will live in anticipation of the time when we can enjoy God’s greatest gifts by being in His eternal presence: *“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”*

