

**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
Email: Office@crossvillechurchofchrist.org
Elders@crossvillechurchofchrist.org



Elders:

Frank Bohannon
Jonathan Loveday
Larry McDuffee
Brian McLaughlin
Jon Tatum

Deacons:

Jim Bell
Kyle Fairman
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:

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>
Username:
Crossville church of Christ
Password:
crossvilleptp2018

February 10, 2019

*“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of
God; and every one that loveth is born of God,
and knoweth God.” 1 John 4:7 KJV*



OCCASIONS FOR GROWTH

Alan Judd

I am writing this article about ten days before most of you will have the chance to read it. Why am I writing in advance? By the time you read this, Lord willing, I will have just finished a very tiring, but exciting week. The first half of the week I hope to have been at Freed-Hardeman University for the annual Bible lectureship. The last part of the week I hope to have enjoyed the Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat hosted by the Jacksonville Church of Christ in Pigeon Forge. Both activities are smorgasbords (I have always wanted to use this word in an article.) of spiritual teaching and sweet Christian fellowship. Why am I writing about them in this article?

First, I want to inform you about these wonderful events. The Bible lectureship at Freed-Hardeman is a wonderful time of study for Bible students of all ages and abilities. Every Christian must study the Word of God—*2 Timothy 2:15*. This event provides lectures, classes, and workshop sessions for every demographic within the church. Men, women, children, Elders, deacons, Bible class teachers, and other interests all have sessions devoted to providing instruction from the Word of God in a relevant and engaging manner. It is a long way to Henderson, and you may not be able to take the time away to get to the west end of the state, but there is another option much closer to home. The lectureship at the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies, formerly the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions, is held the last week of April at the Karns Church of Christ in Knoxville. This year the lectureship will be April 29-May 1. Additional details and a final schedule will soon be made available.

The Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat is an annual gathering of married Christians from around the Southeast and beyond who recognize the need to improve and strengthen their marriages. No marriage is without the need for improvement. All husbands, at least all the smart ones, recognize we need to improve in so many areas. Wives, perhaps not to the same degree in some cases, understand they similarly need improvement. Events like this one are not conducted to assist marriages on the brink of disaster, even though they can aid those who may be heading in that direction or are already there. Instead, this event is primarily meant to provide an opportunity for evaluation and prescribes “preventative maintenance” measures that will strengthen the marriage and help both partners excel in their role. Parenting, finances, and other family-related topics are also studied to help both spouses understand how best to implement Biblical principles into their lives.

Second, in case you cannot guess, I am writing urging you to take advantage of these opportunities and attend one or more of these types of programs. I have not mentioned Polishing the Pulpit, but like the other programs described it provides an opportunity for spiritual growth. What will it take to participate? Sacrifice. You will have to sacrifice money and time (vacation, work, hobby) in order to attend events like these.

Is it worth it? I assure you that prioritizing the spiritual by choosing to participate in these occasions will be a blessing to you, to your family, and to the church. The dividends paid will have eternal significance. This morning, if I seem tired, know that it has been a long week, but it has been one filled with blessings too numerous to list one by one!

LEARNING TO PLEASE GOD (STUDY YOUR BIBLE)

Charles Box

The greatest privilege on earth is that of being a Christian. A true Christian is Christ-like in life. You can be just a Christian. There is no true happiness apart from God. God is the cause and source of all true happiness. Sin separates souls from God and brings man the worst unhappiness of all. (Isaiah 59:2) Sin causes a person to be empty, lonely and filled with guilt. The pay for sin is always misery. "The way of the unfaithful (transgressor) is hard." (Proverbs 13:15) There is an emptiness within each of us which can only be filled by God. "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?" (Psalm 42:2) The tragedy of all tragedies is to live and die without God. (Ephesians 2:12)

Our Bible study reveals the true God to us. The Bible reveals a God who loves man and wants us saved. The love of God is seen in the gift of His Son on the cross. (John 3:16) God also showed His love for us in providing us with the Bible that we might know His will. God's love is likewise seen in His giving us the privilege of being a citizen in His kingdom, the church. Those who know God have true happiness in this life and heaven in the world to come. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1 John 5:11-12) A wonderful truth has been learned when one understands God's love and desire for our good and happiness. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Our Bible study reveals that true happiness is spiritual, not material. True happiness comes from giving God and His kingdom proper place in our lives. (Matthew 6:33) Material things do not bring lasting satisfaction. The more one gets the more one wants. "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." (Luke 12:15) True riches and true happiness never comes to the one who "...lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:21) The love of money or material things always leads to evil and not good. (1 Timothy 6:10)

Our Bible study reveals that true peace comes only from God. Those who have Jesus have a peace which the world did not give and the world cannot take away. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27) This gives real reason to rejoice. "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4) Let us all learn that the key to real joy is for God to rule my life.

Our Bible study is necessary for faith. Those who would know God must study the Bible. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) The first step toward knowing God is Bible study. God had His message written so we could read, believe and obey. "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31) My desire to study the Bible shows my desire to know God. This desire to know God must be strong. "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby." (1 Peter 2:2) My Bible study enables me to know and serve God.

The key to real joy is for God to rule my life. To become a Christian: Hear the gospel of Christ (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus as the Christ (John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 17:30-31), confess faith in Jesus (Acts 8:37) and be baptized to wash away sins. (Acts 22:16) At Bible baptism God adds an honest soul to the Lord's church. A Christian must then be faithful until death. (Revelation 2:10) Are you a faithful Christian? If not, please become a Christian and live faithfully the Christian life.