

**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  
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:**

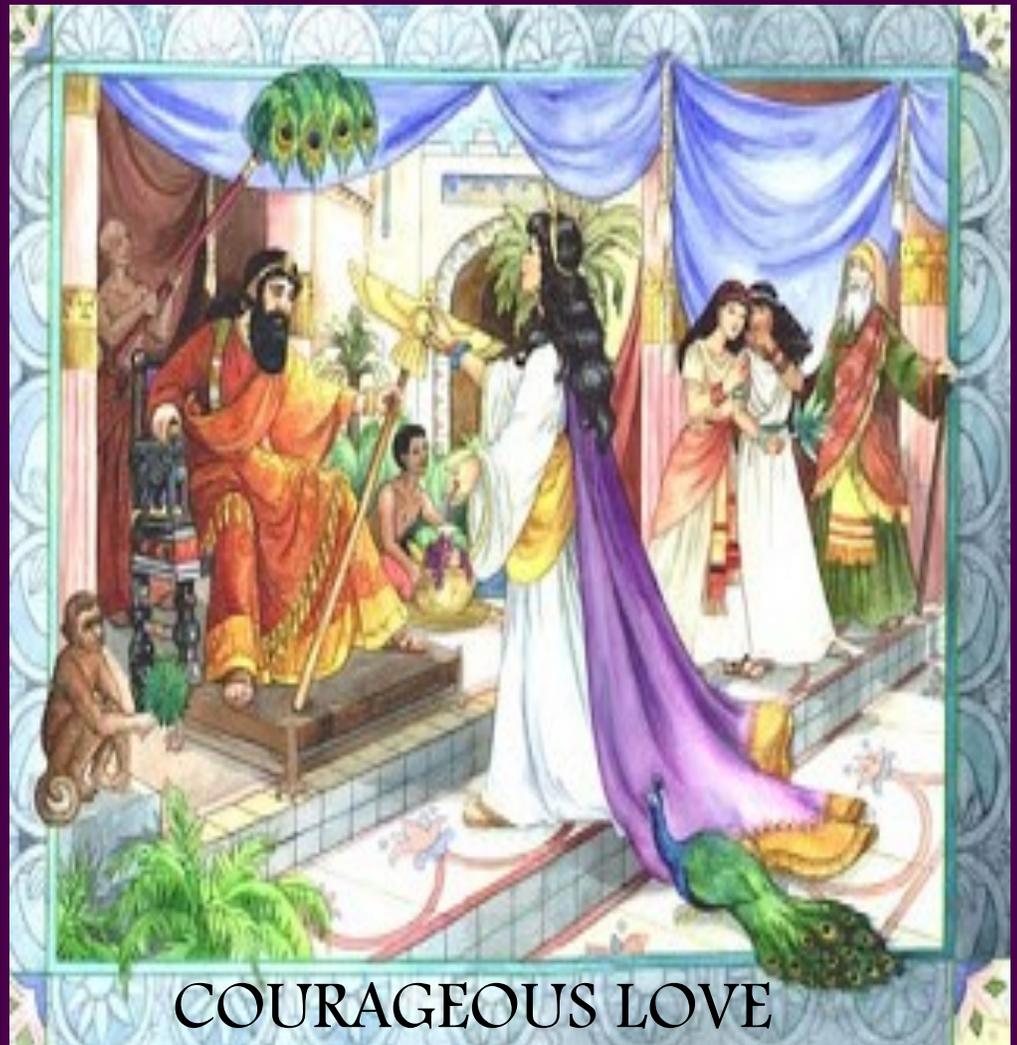
<b>Ladies Bible Class</b>	
Tuesdays	11 AM
<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	
Tuesdays	10 AM
<b>Joyful Generation</b> (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7 PM

**POLISHING THE PULPIT**

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

January 6, 2019

“...and so will I go in unto the  
king, which is not according to the  
law: and if I perish, I perish.”  
Esther 4:16 KJV



**COURAGEOUS LOVE**

# LIKE SANDS THROUGH THE HOUR GLASS

Alan Judd

I guess everyone over the age of 30 probably can recall seeing or hearing the introduction to the soap opera—Days of Our Lives. The music was not very catchy, but the simple lyrics were magnified by a description on screen of what was being described in the phrase—*Like sands through the hour glass, so are the days of our lives.*

A large hourglass was shown on screen and the viewer got a glimpse of the sand as it trickled from the top to the bottom. If you are a younger reader or are unsure what I am referencing Wikipedia provides this definition: “A device used to measure the passage of time. It comprises two glass bulbs connected vertically by a narrow neck that allows a regulated trickle of material (historically sand) from the upper bulb to the lower one.” These devices date back to 300 A.D. or earlier, but with the invention of mechanical clocks around 1500 they have gradually disappeared from regular usage. Some still make use of an “egg timer”, which is a three-minute hourglass. (It does not seem right to call something an hour glass, when it lacks 57 minutes in making an hour, but I digress.)

Many might remember seeing an hourglass type of timer included in a boxed game. If I recall correctly, I believe Pictionary had such a device that allowed each round to be timed accurately as the sand ran from the top bulb to the bottom in a minute. With cell-phones invading everyone’s pocket or purse, we can now use an app to time our games, egg cooking, or whatever else we might like without using this ancient tool.

It is often remarked that the beginning of a New Year is like flipping the hour glass and now time (sand) is running on another year. As the sand dribbles out, we live day by day and watch as the days roll by turning into weeks, weeks into months, months into a year, and then . . .? The problem with this comparison, even though it makes a powerful visual parallel, is that we cannot assume with certainty how much time is left in the top bulb. I have and will continue to make plans for 2019. I’ve also made plans for 2020 and beyond, haven’t you?

I suppose I have plenty of sand (time) left in the top, but how do I know this? Truth be told, I do not and neither do you. Also, you can take an hourglass and turn it over and start again as many times as you might like, just a simple flip is all it takes. Can you do this with life? In one sense, because of God’s grace and forgiveness we can start new with Him whenever we obey His Word, but as it regards the time, we are allotted in this physical world we cannot flip and start again. Sands (days, weeks, months, and years) are passing by every moment and we cannot get any of them back. What are we doing with the time we have right now? How much sand (time) remains in the top bulb?

Are you prepared for the sand to run out? What if it runs out this year? You may not be planning on this happening, but can you be sure it will not? I do not want to be pessimistic or morbid, but I do want to encourage each of us to consider the brevity of life. Archaeologists discovered a tombstone from antiquity with an hourglass with wings carved into the stone and beneath the picture was the Latin *tempus fugit*, which translated is simply--TIME FLIES! The sand is running, time is passing, make the most of the days of your life in 2019!

## BUILDING MY LIFE

### Joshua Kennedy

At some point in life, everyone questions what he is doing and what he is going to do next. This is especially true with Christians. When someone becomes a member of the church, they have to make a life change--**Colossians 3:1-3**. We cannot hold on to the old life that we were living, but we are instead to be more like God. Paul told the church in Rome not to be conformed to the world, but to be transformed into a life that follows Christ--**Romans 12:1-2**. We must not think that just any way of living is okay. James tells us that friendship with the world is enmity with God--**James 4:4**. If we continue to live the way the world lives, we oppose or reject God--**Romans 8:9**. We can sit in the pews all day long, but if we do not model our lives after Him, the pews won't save us.

A worldly lifestyle affects the very core of who we are, and if we allow it to continue, there can be no coexistence between the two. Jesus himself said that we cannot serve two masters--**Matthew 6:24**. We cannot hold on to the world and expect to be with God. If someone from the world came to services with us every Sunday and Wednesday, but throughout the week continued to live a worldly life, we would not say that he is saved. Coming to worship is a start, but it is not the final destination.

Likewise, if we live like the world throughout the week, but "come to church" on Sunday and Wednesday, we still are not living for God. If you tell someone you love them two days out of the week but don't talk to them at all the rest of the week, we would not think that this statement is genuine. God should be the focus of our lives, and He deserves far more than we could ever give Him. He has given us the greatest gift, but we don't seem to think it is that big of a deal. We have heard the "stories" in Bible class and listened to the preacher tell us about Jesus' death, but we must realize how real and amazing this truly is. We will never have a complete life if we do not live our lives for Christ. Our lives are very short and precious things, and we must take our responsibility to God seriously--**James 4:14; Hebrew 9:27**. God loved us so much that he gave his Son for us--**John 3:16**. We must reciprocate that love to God and to others--**1 John 4:19**.

If you ever wonder how Christians seem so happy, maybe you should take a closer look at their lives. A true Christian has a happiness that cannot be touched, but someone who lives his life for the world cannot have lasting happiness. Popularity, Hollywood, Washington, etc., could never bring lasting happiness, but the Lord can give us eternal happiness in heaven. I know it may seem impossible for this to be true, and we often think that the world can give us something faster and more appealing. But how many times have we thought that if we got the next big movie, got that certain item of clothing, or made that friend, we would be happy? It never lasts! That movie will lose its popularity, that item of clothing will go out of style, and that friend may stop being a friend. The truth is, this world is temporary--**Matthew 6:19**. A life lived only in the moment, is no life at all. God gives us an eternal gift and lasting happiness, but we have to put Him first. Let's listen to the One who can truly make us happy and build our lives on His foundation.