

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
P.O. Box 211
Crossville, TN 38557
Phone:
484-5297 or 484-2960

COMPASS

**Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation**

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
Greg Maxwell
Don Napier
Tom Parham
Mark Roberts
Roger Smith
Jason Wyatt
Jerry Wood

Ministers:

Barry Kennedy
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	11AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation	
(Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM

July 2, 2017

Wednesday Night Summer Series (2017)

A SURE FOUNDATION

Join us each Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 p.m. July-September

JULY

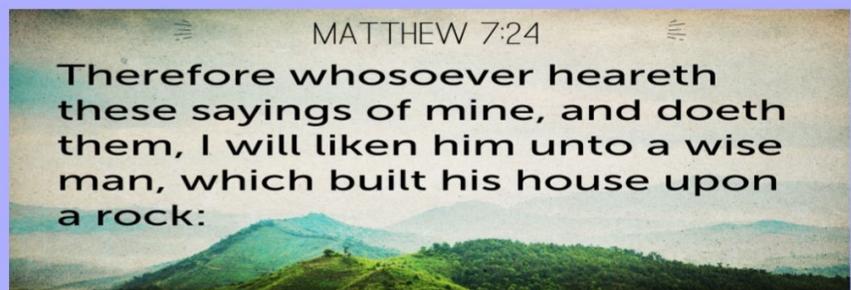
- July 5: "The Sure Foundation of The Chief Cornerstone"
Will Hanstein, Knoxville, TN
- July 12: "The Sure Foundation of Authority"
Brooks Boyd, Livingston, TN
- July 19: "A Sure Foundation of God's Word"
James Rogers, Cookeville, TN
- July 26: "The Sure Foundation of Faith"
Matthew Scoggins, Gainsboro, TN

AUGUST

- August 2: "The Sure Foundation of Repentance"
Kevin Ruiz, Maryville, TN
- August 9: "The Sure Foundation of Confession"
John Anderson, Cookeville, TN
- August 16: "The Sure Foundation of Baptism"
Jeremiah Tatum, Cookeville, TN
- August 23: "The Sure Foundation of Faithfulness"
Charles Williams, Manchester, TN
- August 30: "The Sure Foundation of Godly Fathers"
Garland Robinson, McMinnville, TN

SEPTEMBER

- September 6: "The Sure Foundation of Godly Mothers"
Alan Judd, Bloomington Springs, TN
- September 13: "The Sure Foundation of Godly Children"
Justin Morton, Knoxville, TN
- September 20: "The Sure Foundation that We Can!"
Rob Whitacre, Red Boiling Springs, TN



ACHIEVING HAPPINESS IN THIS LIFE II

Barry Kennedy

No doubt, many people are longing to find happiness in this life. It takes very little observation to see that people will do many, even sinful, things with the hope of obtaining happiness. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be happy. In fact, happiness is a part of true Christianity. However, it is wrong to forsake the truth, transgress God's laws, and rebel against the ways of righteousness to obtain happiness (1 John 3:4; Romans 6:23). Why are so many Christians (i.e. those who have been forgiven of sin) not happy? Last week we began discussing how to achieve happiness in this life. We noted how happiness has its beginning with a healthy level of self-esteem, but what else can we do that will help us move forward toward ACHIEVING HAPPINESS IN THIS LIFE?

We must learn to avoid our past mistakes and the past mistakes of others. Many friends, coworkers, and family members like to offer their "good advice." Some of the best advice that people remember comes from their fathers. Ebb Dozier Jr. was quoted to have received some good advice that goes along with this point. "The second time you get kicked in the head by a mule it's not a learning experience." Many fail to see the profound truth in this humorous message. That is proven by the way man continues to make the same mistakes of the past. Albert Einstein is quoted to have said, "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."¹ Assuming that Mr. Einstein was correct, there are without a doubt many people living in a constant state of insanity. Have we forgotten to study history? Are we so arrogant to think that we will have a different outcome than did our predecessors? The home, the government, and yes even the Lord's church has its share of people longing for happiness but insist upon finding it through failed ideas, strategies, and false teachings of the past.

Solomon wrote an entire book in the Bible called Ecclesiastes. In this book Solomon discussed how he sought happiness through many different worldly mediums. In fact, Ecclesiastes could also be called "Solomon's repentance." He points out how all the worldly ideas for happiness brought him low and to the conclusion that it is all vanity and vexation of the spirit (Eccl. 1:2, 14). Strong defined the Hebrew word translated vanity as: "emptiness or vanity; figuratively something transitory and unsatisfactory." Solomon sought happiness through "wisdom" (Eccl. 1), "pleasure" through wine, houses, gardens, landscapes, servants, gold, silver, peculiar treasures, as well as music and anything his eye desired (Eccl. 2:1-10). Yet those "things" he found to be mistakes. *"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun"* (Eccl. 2:11). The word vexation meant that he was simply left longing or striving for the original goal (BDB).

How does all this apply to our achievement of happiness today? *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope"* (Romans 15:4). Learn from the mistakes of others. Why try to do those things that have been proven not to work and expect them to work. We cannot have true happiness without comfort and hope. We can gain these blessings through learning not to make the same mistakes as did our predecessors. Also, we need not forget the pain and anguish our own mistakes have caused us. When king David found himself convicted of his transgressions, he wanted to be restored to his place of joy (Psa. 51). He first acknowledged his sin (Psa. 51:1-4); next he sought to be cleansed (Psa. 51:7-10), he then pleaded with God, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;..." (Psa. 51:12). David knew (and deep down so do we) that true happiness is only found in the salvation of the Lord. What have we learned from our past mistakes?

¹ www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/a/alberteins133991.html

IS TODAY INDEPENDENCE DAY?

Barry Kennedy

July 4th, the day America celebrates its independence. This time of year brings Americans face to face with our own history. It does not take much study to see how history reveals the fact that man has been plagued by tyranny throughout time. Of course, it is never an enjoyable experience to be on the receiving end of that tyranny. My children really enjoy learning about history. The boys especially like anything to do with war. America's escape from tyranny is one of those historically captivating studies. Good historical accounts give students the ability to peer into the lives of great forgers of the past, as well as, give great insight into how we got where we are and how to avoid making the same mistakes. One can study men such as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, and the list goes on almost indefinitely, but if a person wants to really get a feel for history, he must try to put himself in the shoes of those whom he is studying. Sadly, it seems to be easy for today's America to take for granted the desire that our forefathers had for freedom. Sometimes privileges are mistaken for "rights." Today, we are the recipients of the hard work (including hard decisions) made by those before us. Therefore, history is a very important subject to study, especially Biblical history. Many of the same points made about our American history, can be made about our spiritual history. Having said that, IS TODAY OUR SPIRITUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY?

We cannot have true independence if we are serving the tyrant sin. The apostle Paul let the church in Rome know that one who continues in sin is a servant to sin. *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness"* (Romans 6:16). It is sad that man can find himself so engrossed in a lifestyle of sin that he is unable see that he is a slave to that sin. Just think of the addicts that there are in the world today. They are enslaved to their addiction and will do most anything to get their "fix." How did it all begin? For most it began as a simple experiment for pleasure. There was not a desire to become an addict, they just wanted to have fun. The wise man Solomon warned of the dangers of substance abuse. The substance about which he warned was beverage alcohol.

Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again (Proverbs 23:31-35).

Many are looking for "loopholes" through which they can jump and be right with God while they continue in their "pleasures" of this world. Yet, Paul wrote, *"...be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..."* (Romans 12:2). America needs a renewed mind of morality if we are ever to have independence from the tyrant sin.

We can have true independence if we serve the living God. Jesus said and did many things while He walked the earth for some thirty three years. In fact, John recorded, *"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written"* (John 21:25). One of the greatest statements was His invitation, *"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest..."* (Matthew 11:28-32). Jesus is offering mankind a life free from sin (John 8:36). This life is not just some humdrum, everyday, ordinary life, but an abundant life (John 10:10).

Independence in this country is a wonderful blessing, but it cannot compare to the independence we can have in Christ. Therefore, *"IS TODAY INDEPENDENCE DAY for you?" "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage"* (Galatians 5:1).