

**Crossville Church
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COMPASS

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

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Elders@crossvillechurchofchrist.org



July 23, 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

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)

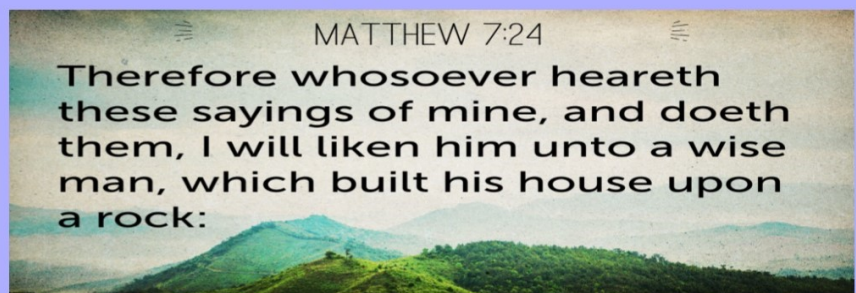
Don Iverson
Jim Waldron

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



WHEN CHRISTIANITY CONFRONTS CULTURE

John Waddey

Every person is born into a particular culture. Unless he moves to another, he will grow up in that culture. Just as water surrounds a fish, so our culture surrounds us. There are many layers of culture that make up the whole. Sometimes they are identical, but often they are quite different.

* First there is the culture of one's family. It may be pious or profane. Or it may be basically good but not devout.

- There may be a layer of religion in your culture. If you are raised in a Catholic, Baptist, Pentecostal or Presbyterian family and members are active in their faith it will definitely play a large role in your cultural environment. An even greater difference will be seen if you are raised in a Christian a Buddhist or an Islamic culture.
- There is an ethnic layer in ones culture. Some live in communities where ethnic groups congregate. Their community life may reflect the ethics and culture of their Italian, Irish, Jewish, African-American, etc., ethnicity.
- There is an economic layer of culture. Some grow up in wealthy, some in poor and some in middle-class neighborhoods. Those in wealthy communities usually have much greater cultural advantages such as libraries, quality entertainment, better schools, travel, etc. The poor often grow up without access to these things. Each of these three groups have certain traits, privileges or lack thereof.
- There will be a moral layer in ones culture. It may be a community where honesty, soberness, industry, peace and respect for others and their property prevail. Another neighborhood might be crime-ridden where violence and criminal activity are the order of the day.
- There may be a layer that dictates ones approach to life. Some communities project values of honesty, soberness, hard work, self-reliance and service to God and man. Others may be drenched in alcohol, drug abuse, prostitution, laziness and dependence.
- There is a national layer. America culture is unlike that of China, Africa or Russia. National cultures promote certain values and world views that greatly influence their citizens. Within a particular nation there will be found cultural differences in those that are conservative, those who are liberal and those with no interest in such matters.

It is clear to see that a child raised in a given environment will be greatly impacted for good or evil by his culture. In a broader sense culture consists of all that which influences and shapes our lives. Our culture includes the virtues and values with which we were raised. All the mores, traditions and conventions of our society are part of our culture. It involves our educational community and religious influences. It is disseminated through the art, music, theater, literature, entertainment and sports in our nation. In our day, many of these currents of culture have been co-opted by a corrupt element of our society and are used to corrupt those influenced by them. These things mold and shape us into a certain kind of person, perhaps good, perhaps bad.

Every Christian lives in his own unique culture. It may encourage his endeavor to live for Christ, or it may discourage him and even make war against him if he follows Christ (John 15:19). Though we live in this cultural maelstrom, we are not of it (John 17:14). We must not be "conformed to the world." Rather we must be transformed by the renewing of our minds according to God's standard (Rom. 12:1-2).

We are not mindless and helpless before the pressures of our culture. Made in God's image, we have volition, the freedom and ability to choose the good or the evil (Gen. 1:26). We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). He strengthens us with power "through his Spirit in the inner man" (Eph. 3:16).

Just as the man born in the ghetto must resist and rise above that culture if he wants to succeed in life, so Christians and the church must resist and rise above the unwholesome aspects of our culture. True Christianity is and has always been counter-cultural. When culture encounters Christ, it is culture that must yield!

Compromise with a corrupt, godless culture can only end in defeat for a Christian or a church. Our culture will one day be consumed in fire with our sin-cursed universe (II Pet. 3:10). But those who have defied culture and lived according to the standards of the kingdom of heaven will live forever (I John 2:17). Today, more than any other time in the history of our nation, the waves of a corrupt culture are threatening to overwhelm and swamp the Lord's Church. Those disciples who would lower her standards and change the faith, doctrine, worship and nature of the church to comply with the demands of culture are unfaithful stewards of God's kingdom (I Cor. 4:2).

A CHANGING STANDARD

Bob Prichard

Although the metric system has never been fully implemented in the United States, it is still important, because our measurements, such as the pound, are derived from the metric system. The pound is derived from a one kilo metal cylinder (90% platinum and 10% iridium) in Sevres, France. That standard kilo is equivalent to exactly 2.2046 pounds. Seven exact copies of the standard kilo, called prototypes, are triple locked in a safe in Sevres. There is a problem, though, because the prototypes have begun to diverge in weight. While the differences are extremely small (50 micrograms or less), scientists are concerned, and don't know why the changes have happened (Elizabeth Weise, "Scientists ask: Is the kilo losing weight?" USA Today, April 19, 2011, p. 3B).

The international standards date to the French revolution of 1789, when measurements varied from one country to another. French scientists developed standard weights, lengths, etc. The problem that should concern us is that small shifts in the standard can add up to larger and larger changes.

The Bible, of course, is our standard—and it is an unchanging standard. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Proverbs 22:8 and 23:10 warn, "Remove not the ancient landmark." Removing the landmarks meant removing that from which everything was measured.

We agree that the Bible is our standard, but how often do we ask ourselves if we are really adhering to God's standard? Do we know it well enough to measure our lives by the standard? Are we ever guilty of letting the standard change? Do we have one standard for others concerning love, honesty, etc. for others, and another for ourselves?

