

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
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COMPASS

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

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July 30, 2017

Wednesday Night Summer Series (2017)

A SURE FOUNDATION

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

JULY

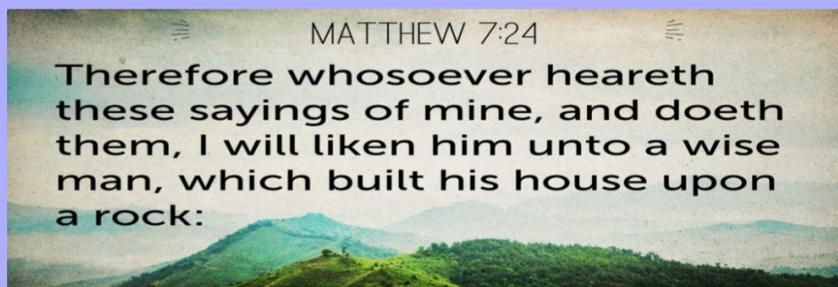
- July 5: "The Sure Foundation of The Chief Cornerstone"
Will Hanstein, Knoxville, TN
- July 12: "The Sure Foundation of Authority"
Brooks Boyd, Livingston, TN
- July 19: "A Sure Foundation of God's Word"
James Rogers, Cookeville, TN
- July 26: "The Sure Foundation of Faith"
Matthew Scoggins, Gainsboro, 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
Wednesday	6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

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

CAN THE CHURCH SURVIVE? (NO. I)

Batsell Barrett Baxter

Late in February, Abilene Christian College held its fifty-fourth Annual Bible Lectureship. The theme for 1972 was: "The Church and the Future." Officials of the college indicated that this largest of our annual lectureships was attended by between five and six thousand visitors. My assigned theme, for the final night of the lectures, was: "Can the Church Survive?" It may seem a bit presumptuous to spend an entire lectureship thinking about the future, when none of us has prophetic power to know what the future may bring, yet it seems wise to plan for the future. As someone has said, "The man who thinks he can see what the future holds is foolish; the man who does not try to see what the future holds is foolish indeed."

The very fact that the theme, "Can the Church Survive?", was given such prominent consideration was in itself a bit disturbing. This is an implied negativism in this title, however, no one who is aware of current religious conditions would argue that the title was unrealistic. Today, there are questions being raised about the survival of many of our institutions. Some even question the survival of the home. Reference has been made to "the doomsday lobby," our present "climate of despair," and the fact that modern society seems to be "coming apart at the seams." In this kind of climate of thinking it is not unexpected that some should ask, "Can the church survive?"

In the June, 1968, issue of Tragic-Action magazine, Charles Clock and Rodney Stark, research sociologists, wrote pessimistically of the future of Christianity. They said, "Perhaps at no time since the conversion of Paul has the future of Christianity seemed so uncertain. Clearly, a profound revolution in religious thought is sweeping the churches. Where will it lead?"

. . . Perhaps the majority of Christians think the whole matter has been greatly exaggerated-the present excitement will pass and that the churches will continue pretty much as before. Our own research, however, suggests that the current religious revolution is being accompanied by a general decline in commitment to religion. (There is) a near majority rejection of such traditional articles of faith as Christ's miracles, life after death, the promise of the second coming, and the virgin birth. . . . An overwhelming majority reject the existence of the devil. . . . In coming days, many conservative Christians will undoubtedly argue and work for an about face. . . . (But) . . . it seems clear to us that a return to orthodoxy is no longer possible. The current reformation in religious thought is irrevocable, and we are no more likely to recover our innocence in these matters than we are to again believe that the world is flat." This dismal statement somehow brings to mind Paul's statement in I Timothy 4:1, ". . . in later times, some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons."

Satan's Strategy Nothing would please Satan more than that we Christians believe that the future of the church is hopeless. One of his great desires is to destroy hope and optimism. He would have us believe, "Things are in bad shape, steadily growing worse . . . and the future is bleak." An imaginary story tells that once Satan announced that he was going out of business and was offering each of his tools for sale. When the time of the auction came every tool sold but one: "Discouragement." The punch line in the story was that Satan still has this tool and continues to use

it. This story is not very realistic, for Satan has many tools and continues to use all of them, but it does highlight the fact that discouragement is one of his most effective weapons, especially against good and conscientious people. We must not allow ourselves to become discouraged and to feel defeated.

All of us have read the apostle Paul's account in the opening chapter of Romans of the terrible >

state of both Jews and Gentiles during his day. At one point Paul wrote, concerning the Gentiles, " ... knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things."

A little later there was this awful list of sins, ". . . filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, hateful to God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, unmerciful: who, knowing the ordinance of God, that they that practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but also consent with them that practice them." Then, he turned his attention to the Jews, "Wherefore thou art without excuse, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest dost practice the same things." (Rom. 1: 21-23, 29-32; 2: 1.)

In spite of the depraved nature of that generation, the church was just entering one of its greatest periods of growth. With all of these evils surrounding the Christians, we would think that the future was bleak. Instead it was bright. The church was to grow and spread in a phenomenal way. When conditions are at their worst, the Lord's church often makes its greatest strides. We are, therefore, encouraged and hopeful for the future of the church in this present age. (More to come.)

DO YOU NEED SOME OF THIS?

Bob Prichard

Have you heard about the new toothpaste? It has shoe polish in it. It is made for people who are constantly putting their foot in their mouth!

Don't all of us wish, sometimes, that we had thought a little before we said what we said? Once those words leave our lips, they are so hard to call back. It is so easy for something we never intended to say to slip out. Of course, if we didn't think those bad things, they wouldn't be there to slip out.

Wisdom speaks to us and says, "Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it" (Proverbs 8:4-11). Notice, for wisdom, the opening of the lips is only for right things, for truth. Wickedness is an abomination to the lips of wisdom.

James warned about how hard, but how necessary, it is to control the tongue. "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" (James 3:2-5).

Solomon reminds us, "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding" (Proverbs 17:28). Just for today, let's really think before we speak, and speak things that are good and right. Otherwise, you may need some of the toothpaste with shoe polish in it!