

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
P.O. Box 211
Crossville, TN 38557
Phone:
484-5297 or 484-2960
Live audio streaming
866-883-9291
For video streaming
see Website

COMPASS

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

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



August 6, 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)

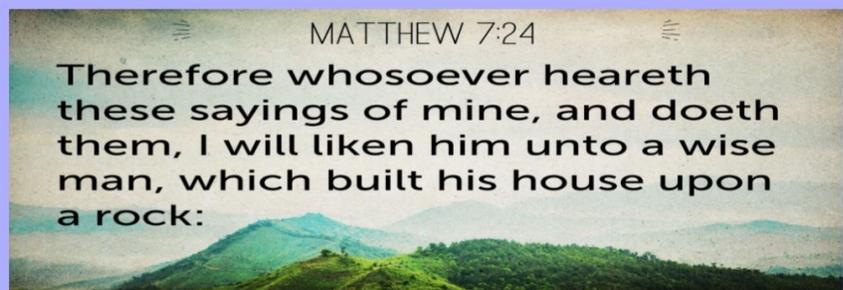
Don Iverson
Jim Waldron

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



CAN THE CHURCH SURVIVE? (NO. 2)

Batsell Barrett Baxter

The future of the church is hopeful, because it is God's church, not man's. In our previous study we referred to the dire predictions that Christianity is on its way out and that already we are living in a post-Christian era. Just here, we must distinguish carefully between Christianity in general (Catholicism and Protestantism), and the church of the New Testament. Much of today's alarm stems from the realization that the liberal, over-organized, denominational, secular church is under heavy fire. Its future is quite bleak. In the state churches of Europe, there are huge buildings, but the seats are empty. Much of twentieth century religion in America is going rapidly down the same road.

The Lord's Church In contrast with the modern liberal church, which appears to be crumbling, the Lord's church has a bright future. We are confident of this because of the words of Scripture. In Matthew 16: 16-18, we find the account of Christ's conversation with Peter, in which Peter made the great confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." A moment later Jesus responded, "And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock (the fact which Peter had just confessed, that Jesus was divine) I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." This last expression is understood generally to mean that Christ's church will not be overcome by death, but that it will survive from generation to generation.

The correctness of this understanding is made even more certain when we read in I Corinthians 15: 24 the apostle Paul's statement, "Then cometh the end, when he shall deliver up the kingdom of God, even the Father; when he shall have abolished all rule and all authority and power." In other words, at the end of time, the kingdom (or church), will still be in existence and Christ will deliver it up to God.

A Disturbing Question In Luke 18: 2-8 we read the story of a poor widow who constantly sought a wicked judge, who feared not God and regarded not man, to avenge her of her adversaries. He would not for a while, but eventually did so because she was wearing him out by her continual coming. In effect, Christ was saying in this parable, "How much more shall God avenge those who cry to him for help." His actual words were, "And shall not God avenge his elect, that cry to him day and night, and yet he is longsuffering over them? I say unto you, that he will avenge them speedily." Then, realizing that in spite of God's willingness to protect and help his children, there were days of heavy persecution ahead, Christ asked in the next sentence, "Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Christ knew that the Christians would be outnumbered and that they would be persecuted by both Jews and Romans. He also knew that they would be surrounded by worldliness, and that they would be ridiculed and taunted for their faith's sake. One of the great problems in the early church was the "lapses," those who under persecution let their Christianity lapse.

A Chilling Thought Just here it is good for those of us who have a tendency to be complacent and who give to the church only token service to stop and look back. We need to ask the question, "What happened to the churches at Jerusalem, Antioch, Ephesus, Philippi, Corinth, Pergamum, Smyrna and Rome?" The answer is that all of these congregations, some of which were churches of tremendous size and spiritual strength, died out sometime during the intervening centuries. No individual Christian and no specific congregation is guaranteed survival in the midst of our troublous times.

The church universal is of divine origin and its survival does not depend on any given person or congregation. Its primary source of strength is divine, not human. God will not let his cause fail. >

The church is eternal. God will do his work through the church, whether or not he does it through us. The church has survived nearly two thousand years in spite of all kinds of threats and dangers. It will survive throughout all the future.

So, it is not a question of whether the church will survive. It is only a question of whether each individual Christian, and each present-day congregation, will survive. Each of us needs to turn his attention inward and ask, "Am I stronger and more active as a Christian than I was five years ago? Or ten years ago?" The leaders of each congregation need to ask, "Is the church at this place stronger than it was five years ago? Or ten years ago? Are there more members? Are we spiritually more mature?" Christ's church will survive forever; our concern is whether we will be part of that eternal church.

FEAR OR FEARLESS; WHICH SHOULD WE BE

David Shannon

God doesn't want us to be afraid or does He? Paul told the young man Timothy "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" in 2 Timothy 1:7. Paul was speaking of his imprisonment and urging Timothy not to let such a situation make him afraid to do the Lord's work.

If you were to go to prison for living the Christian life, would you? "I'm afraid who would take care of my children" we might say. We might be afraid we would lose our job, our reputation, or maybe even our life. But God says, "I didn't give you that fear!" Then who did? Satan did!

Fear is a part of the enemy! Too often we find ourselves like Peter when he was afraid. He sank in the water (Matthew 14:30) and another time he separated himself from the Gentiles whom he ought to have embraced (Galatians 2:12). Fear will cause us to sink in sin and embrace the wrong things. It will also cause us to stay in sin believing we can cowardly hide instead of courageously turning back to God. Adam sinned and hid himself because he was afraid (Gen 3:10). The one talent man never used his talent because of fear (Matthew 25:25). Saul couldn't face the giant because he was afraid (1 Samuel 17:11). Fear paralyzes us from serving and sacrificing our life to God! Paul was pleading with Timothy to recognize only God gives us power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

There is a fear which we are to develop. It is the fear of God. This awesome respect and reverence for God is spoken of many times, but especially in Psalms. See Psalms 25:12; 115:11, 13; 146:11. David knew the importance of esteeming God in the highest.

David was courageous for God against Goliath when all the other soldiers, including Saul, were afraid. He was fearful of the Lord almost all the time. Let's ask ourselves these questions. When was David afraid of God? Do you remember when he consulted people instead of God when he had a cart built to move the ark? Uzza died and "David was afraid of God that day" (1 Chronicles 13:12). His fear stemmed from knowing he had disappointed God, but he was not exactly sure in what way. David read the law of Moses on how to move the ark and did so "as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord" (1 Chronicles 15:13-15). The point is, we ought to be very afraid when we realize we are not standing with God! We are to be fearless with God on our side and fearful if He isn't!

