

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
P.O. Box 211
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Live audio streaming
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COMPASS

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

For live video streaming see Website
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

September 3, 2017

Wednesday Night Summer Series (2017)

A SURE FOUNDATION

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

JULY

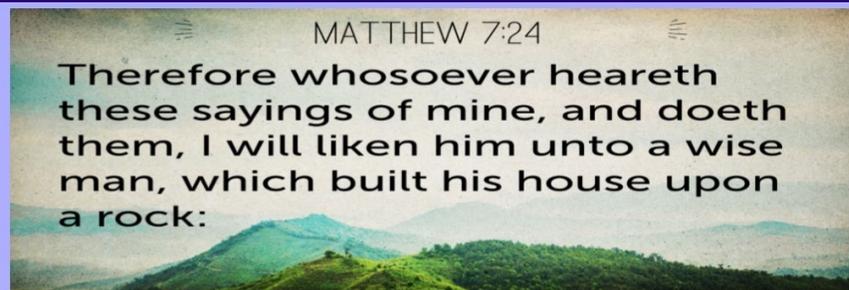
- July 5: "The Sure Foundation of The Chief Cornerstone"
Will Hanstein, Knoxville, TN
- July 12: "The Sure Foundation of Authority"
Brooks Boyd, Livingston, TN
- July 19: "A Sure Foundation of God's Word"
James Rogers, Cookeville, TN
- July 26: "The Sure Foundation of Faith"
Matthew Scoggins, Gainesboro,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



Crisis in the Church (Respect for Authority)

Barry Kennedy

Crisis is defined as “a situation or period in which things are very uncertain, difficult, or painful, especially a time when action must be taken to avoid complete disaster or breakdown” (Encarta Dictionary). Christians are not immune to the difficulties and uncertainties of life because we live in this world. God has made a way of escape to His people, helping us to endure those difficulties and uncertainties (1 Corinthians 10:13). The foundational element to finding a cure for the crises we face is to develop a healthy respect for authority. Developing this respect for authority in the church will help to cure a crisis of ignorance, inactivity, and instability.

Respect for Authority Helps to Cure the Crisis of Ignorance. It has been said that two of the largest problems among the Lord’s people are ignorance and apathy (i.e. I don’t know and I don’t care). God (The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is the supreme authority in all things, because God is the source of all things (Genesis 1:1). The inspired Word of God is the means by which man is directed in this life (Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Jesus told the Sadducees, “Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?” (Mark 12:24). Too often people try to make the claim that “ignorance is bliss.” To make such a claim is often nothing more than a feeble avoidance of a responsibility or commitment. When we cure the problem of ignorance, as it pertains to the Word of God, we will be much more likely to cover the problem of apathy as well. Only a heart of stone can study the Word of God and not come away with a deep love for the Lord and a desire to follow Him (Romans 10:17; John 15:13; 14:15; 1 John 4:19).

Notice some biblical examples of ignorance that God did not consider bliss. Josiah began to rule over Judah in a crisis of gross spiritual ignorance (2 Kings 22). God’s people had “lost” (literally rejected 2 Kings 21:1-9) the Word of the Law. Josiah had respect for the authority of God and those who shared this respect as well (2 Kings 22:2). Josiah’s respect for God’s authority was demonstrated when he heard the lost Word of the law (2 Kings 22:11). When Josiah’s ignorance was resolved, he turned to the Lord and made restitution (2 Kings 22:18-20).

David also suffered a crisis of ignorance. David failed to consider how God wanted the ark of the covenant transported (2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 13-15). David was perplexed when Uzzah was struck down (2 Samuel 6:8; 1 Chronicles 13:12). Many very religious people today are just like David. They assume they know what God’s will is, yet they fail to consult the guide book (2 Thessalonians 3:16-17). Jeremiah noted the folly of such self-centered direction (Jeremiah 10:23). Adherence to the authority of God, as revealed in His word, was the cure to David’s problem (1 Chronicles 15:2, 15).

Many are going through life suffering a spiritual crisis; yet, their blatant ignorance of God’s word causes them to fail to see their lack of submission to the authority of God. Ignorance shows that there is a crisis in the world and in the Church when it comes to having respect for authority.

Respect for Authority Helps to Cure the Crisis of Inactivity. How many leaders in the Lord’s church have found themselves struggling with inactivity in the membership? The old adage is still being said that “ninety percent of the work is carried out by ten percent of the membership.” No matter if the above statement is true or not, how much better would “church work” be if we could get all hands on deck? Jesus said of Himself, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). Therefore, if we see Jesus as the authority, and He is (Matthew 28:18), and we understand that He left us an “example” that we

should follow in His steps, and He did (1 Peter 2:21), should we not take on that same disposition?

Developing an appreciation for the authority of the scriptures will help every individual member to see his or her potential. Jesus told a parable about three individuals receiving “talents” from their master (Matthew 25:14-29). The master (i.e. the Lord) knew the ability each man possessed better than they themselves knew (Matthew 25:15b). The inactivity of the “one talent man was not overlooked or dismissed as being acceptable (Matthew 25:24-29).

God has delivered unto us everything that we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him (2 Peter 1:3). Any amount of knowledge we have of God comes from His word. That word tells us that there is a way to live, and a way not to live (Galatians 5:19-26).

Consider how a respect for the authority of God was exemplified in the scriptures. Peter, James, and John were permitted to accompany the Lord on the mount for His transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8). When Peter saw Jesus speaking with Moses and Elijah, he became overwhelmed and recommended three tabernacles to be erected for Moses, Elijah, and the Lord (see Luke 9:33). The voice of the Father came forth with a resounding, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Matthew 17:5). Peter and the other apostles fell on their faces in fear, but Jesus relieved them with the words “Arise and be not afraid” (Matthew 17:7). They arose and followed Him. About three thousand Jews who came for the Pentecost submitted to the authority of God (Acts 2). Fifty days after the crucifixion of Jesus, Peter and the eleven boldly proclaimed that the Jews were guilty of crucifying the Son of God (Acts 2:23, 36). Hearing these words cut them to the heart so deeply that they cried out, “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). Peter’s response had the full weight of the authority of Christ. “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38; emphasis mine BK). Those who “gladly received his word” obeyed and that day the Lord added about three thousand souls to the church (Acts 2:41, 47). Those obedient converts got involved in the work as they “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

Do we respect the authority of God’s Word enough to be steadfast in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)? Inactivity shows that there is a crisis in the world and in the Church when it comes to having respect for authority.

Respect for Authority Helps to Cure the Crisis of Instability. James said, “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8). The double minded man is one who tries to serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). The Greek word is δίψυχος “dipsuchos” two spirited, that is, vacillating (in opinion or purpose): - double minded. (Strong’s). Many are trying to have one spirit focused upon this world and the other focused upon the Lord. When we put anything before God (making it our god) it is idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:14; Colossians 3:5). When we yield ourselves we become slaves (Romans 6:16). Servants (KJV) was translated from the word δούλος doulos meaning “a slave (literally or figuratively, involuntarily or voluntarily; frequently therefore in a qualified sense of subjection or subserviency): - bond (-man), servant” (Strong’s). Paul informed the Roman congregation that they were once the servants of sin, but they “obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you” (Romans 6:17). The Roman brethren obeyed out of a respect for authority.

Living for this world can never bring anything but instability. God’s word teaches us how to have the peace that passes understanding (Philippians 4:7). We can be free from the instability of anxiety looking to God in prayer and supplication and thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6). All these blessings are reserved for those who submit to the authority of God (Ephesians 1:3). The apostle Paul let the Corinthian brethren know that hope in this world brings only misery (1 Corinthians 15:19). Will we allow the world to be our authority (i.e. culture, family, government, etc.), or will we choose to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29)?

We must understand and teach that a rejection of God’s commands in His Word is a rejection of God Himself (John 12:48). Too many Christians, for far too long, are suffering crises in their lives. Many crises, including (but not limited to) ignorance, inactivity, and instability could be resolved if we would learn to respect the proper authority.