

**Crossville Church
of Christ**
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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
Don Napier
Tom Parham
Mark Roberts
Jason Wyatt
Jerry Wood

Ministers:

Alan Judd
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	11 AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7 PM

POLISHING THE PULPIT

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December 16, 2018

*Only fear the Lord, and serve Him
in truth with all your heart; for
consider what great things He has
done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24 NKJV*



A CHRISTIAN CHICKEN?

Alan Judd

Authors and bloggers sometimes title their compositions in an outrageous way in order to try and generate interest from readers. In the case of online posts, these shocking titles are called click-bait. I assure you that the title to this article was not selected with this intention.

Now you may be curious as to what is meant by a Christian chicken, allow me to explain. I am not talking about the yummy nuggets and sandwiches served at a certain restaurant chain that uses Holsteins—black and white cows to encourage hungry patrons to eat more chicken. Even though the bovines are not adept at spelling, the recipe used to perfectly prepare the fried deliciousness of their chicken makes many of us return frequently. Many are also aware that this corporation is known to be run by those interested in honoring Christian principles. To that end, all of their restaurants are closed every Sunday and every employee is trained to be polite and tell patrons it is a pleasure to serve them. However, this is not what I want to discuss as it relates to my title: A Christian Chicken?

The idea behind this title came from an observation made by my 5-year-old nephew. Older family members were discussing still older family members and some of the stories they told about their childhood years. One that was especially interesting was how one uncle or grandfather (I don't honestly remember which) would pretend to preach out by the chicken house. Many of us who grew up being taken to church from birth have probably all "played" church in one form or another. My oldest son, when he could barely walk, would often climb up behind the pulpit and pretend to preach or sing even when all he could do was make unintelligible babbling noises. What made the incident being retold about the relative preaching out by the chicken house was that after what must have been a very powerful lesson, this young one proceeded to attempt and baptize one of the chickens. Now if you know anything about chickens you know how much they hate water. I was chuckling as I tried to imagine in my mind what it must have looked like trying to get a chicken immersed in a tub or bucket of some kind. However, I was most impressed by my aforementioned 5-year-old nephew who exclaimed: "You know what that made him?" Without giving anyone enough time to respond he continued: "A Christian chicken!"

What led him to make this evaluation? He is blessed with parents and other family members who have taught him the truth. From his birth, he has been involved in Bible study classes and sat through numerous Gospel sermons where this truth from God's Word was faithfully proclaimed. He also recently watched with excitement as an older sister identified with the death, burial, and resurrection of the Savior by being baptized for the forgiveness of her sins. I am not suggesting that chickens or any other animals can respond to the Gospel, but I am pointing out that my young nephew grasps a truth that alludes many who are much older.

His understanding is rudimentary, but he has been grounded in the truth Jesus taught which is recorded in Mark 16:16: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Many try to deny the essentiality of immersion or baptism to salvation, but the words of the Lord must not be ignored or denied. In John 3:5 the Savior continues: "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." This must be a reference to baptism because of what Acts 2 teaches. In that passage, the apostles announce the arrival of God's kingdom due to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Convicted of their sin in murdering the Lord, the troubled crowd cries out asking what they can do in light of their terrible deed. The response was straightforward: "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38) Every instance of a person or multiple persons being saved or converted includes baptism in the book of Acts. (See Acts 2, Acts 8, Acts 16 and other passages to confirm this.) Baptism in water for the remission of sins is essential before one can be saved or be called a Christian. Other steps of obedience like faith and repentance are also necessary and precede baptism as the Bible teaches. You may have been taught differently and urged to pray a prayer or accept Jesus into your heart, but I urge you to simply read what those in the Bible did and do likewise

(cont. from page 2) in order to be saved. We would welcome the opportunity to study with you about these matters. I am not sure I know any Christian chickens, but I do know one 5-year-old who has a simple understanding of the truth of Scripture that evades many who are much older.

WERE YOU SHAKEN?

Alan Judd

Early this past Wednesday morning, many in our area and beyond were surprisingly awakened by a magnitude 4.4 earthquake. I think I woke up right before the shaking started, but might have just dreamed that I was awake. The epicenter was about 7 miles northeast of Decatur or only about 40 miles southeast of Crossville. The tremor could be felt as far south as Atlanta and up to 250 miles west according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Three aftershocks followed the initial event, but they were less intense. No serious damage was reported and experts said that this type of event is normal and not a precursor to a future event of greater intensity.

You might be surprised to discover the Bible mentions occurrences of earthquakes several times. In 1 Samuel 14:15 the Bible describes a victory of Jonathan, son of King Saul, over the Philistines by noting: "And there was trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and the raiders also trembled; and the earth quaked, so that it was a very great trembling." Later in the Old Testament, we read of an earthquake that was part of the manifestation of the power of God to Elijah, who was depressed and on the run from the wicked queen Jezebel. In an amazing display, Scripture records: Then He (God) said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice" (1 Kings 19:11-12). Many remember when Paul and Silas were imprisoned in Philippi how their midnight worship and praise was interrupted: "Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed" (Acts 16:26). This event helped open the eyes of the prison guard and provided the opportunity for him and his household to hear and obey the Gospel. Revelation 11:19 mentions an earthquake in connection with other simultaneous phenomena in figuratively describing the opening of the temple of God in Heaven.

When our Savior died on the cross, Matthew informs us: "Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split" (Matthew 27:51). In the following chapter when the women come to the tomb of the Lord, they discover that it is empty and we read: "behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it" (Matthew 28:2).

It is likely the earthquakes recorded in Scripture were supernaturally orchestrated for a specific purpose. When Noah and his family were safely in the ark, the cataclysmic breaking up of the fountains of the great deep probably included what could be classified as earthquakes. (See Genesis 7:11) Unfortunately, many have misunderstood the context of Matthew 24 and parallel passages concerning the destruction of Jerusalem. Jesus warned: "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places" (Matthew 24:7). Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70 and this verse cannot be used in an attempt to correlate modern events as a precursor to determine the time of Christ's Second Coming.

In Exodus 19, Mount Sinai quaked as the presence of God descended upon it. The people were fearful as they experienced this awesome display of power. It is this event that the Hebrew writer uses to encourage Christians by instructing us: "we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken" (Hebrews 12:28). Read Hebrews 12:18-29 and Exodus 19 to see the whole picture. God's people need not fear even if mountains shake and carried into the midst of the sea because "The Lord of Hosts is with us, He is our refuge." Read the eleven verses of Psalm 46 to be reminded of this glorious truth. Life can and does shake us up sometimes, but for those who trust in the Lord, they need not fear!