

**Crossville church
of Christ**

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COMPASS

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

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October 31, 2010

Elders:

Eddie Brown

Bill Foland

Larry McDuffee

Clyde Randolph

Deacons:

Jim Bell

Frank Bohannon

Al Griffin

Jimmy Harris

Doug Loveday

Jonathan Loveday

Greg Maxwell

Brian McLaughlin

Mark Roberts

Roger Smith

Minister:

Barry Kennedy

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

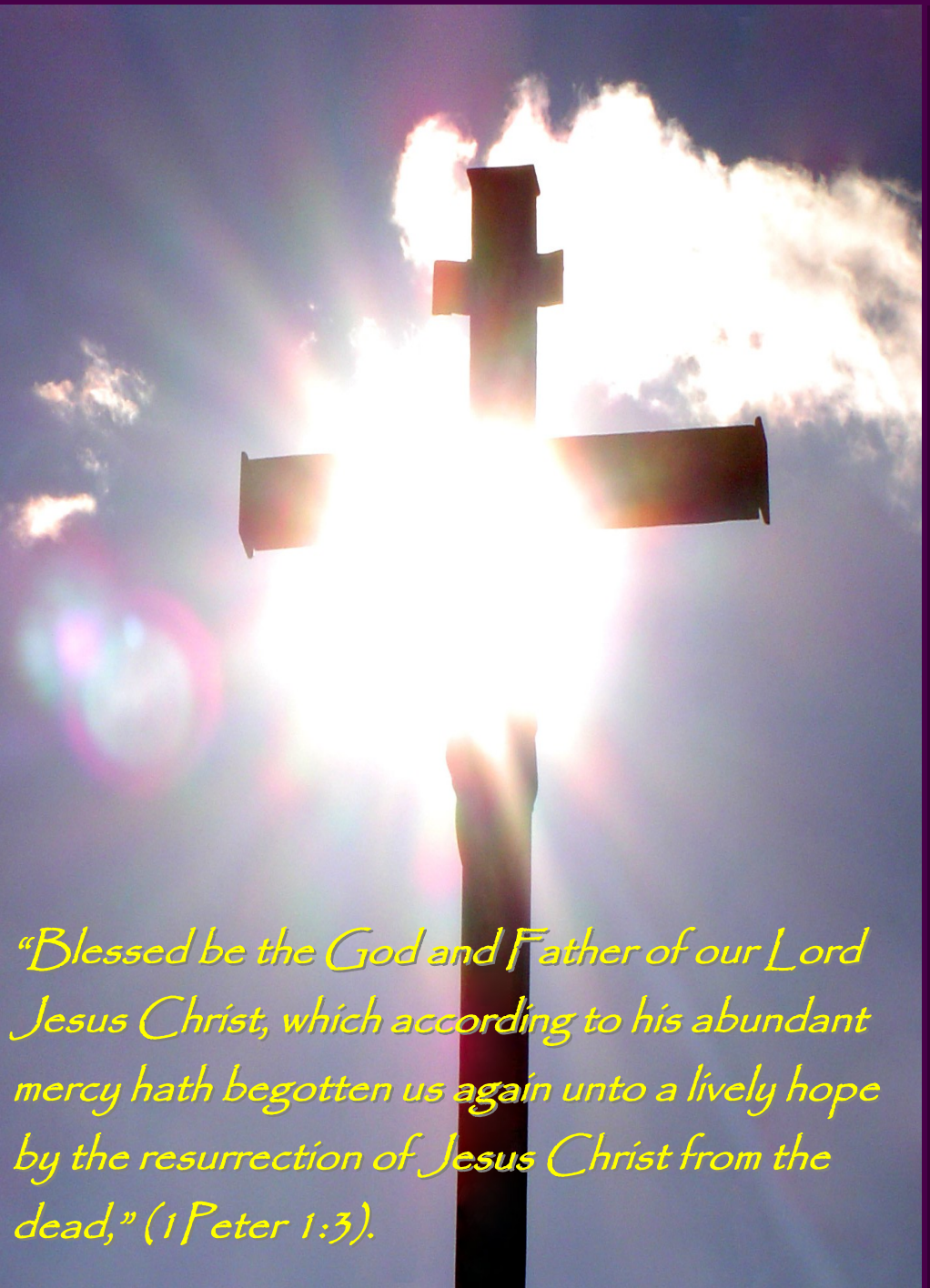
Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays 10 AM

Joyful Generation

(Youth Devotional & fellowship)

1st Sunday 7:00 PM



*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant
mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope
by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead,” (1 Peter 1:3).*

TALES FROM THE DARK-SIDE

Barry Kennedy

People tend to have some fascination with spooky things. Consider how much money is spent in the horror industry. Horror has had a strong impact upon this world in which we live. Just think about how many children who have to look under the bed for fear of a monster. The movies, books, and stories of ghosts, zombies, vampires, werewolves, and such have caused nightmares as long as these stories have been told. As unrealistic as these tales from the dark-side are, people's fascination with fear has at times distorted man's reasoning with the truth. Truly no one has any reason to fear these characters of man's imagination, but there are some tales from the dark-side that everyone should consider.

The first tale from the dark-side was told by the Devil himself. God had in six days created the world (Genesis 1, 2; Exodus 20:11). Man was his crowning creation being made in the very image of God (Genesis 1:26). God gave man one negative command, *"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* (Genesis 2:16, 17). It was with this command that the Devil would tell his tale from the dark-side. He approached Eve and said, *"Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"* (Genesis 3:4, 5). Of course, anyone who has read this account knows that Eve listened to the serpent (Devil), gave the fruit to Adam, and chose not to listen to God. As a result mankind has suffered ever since. Our adversary the Devil is constantly looking for an opportunity to deceive us into thinking his way is better than the Lord's way. We would do well to remember that his desire is to destroy us, but God's plan is to save us (1 Peter 5:8; 1 Timothy 2:4). Will we be terrified enough to learn not to adhere to the Tales From the Dark-side?

Another Tale From the Dark-side involved a man of God (1 Kings 13:1ff.). This man of God (prophet) was crying out against Jeroboam's changing God's commanded plans for worship (1 Kings 12). His message was not going to win him any popularity contests, but he spoke the words of the Lord (1 Kings 13:2, 3). Jeroboam asked the prophet to come home with him, be refreshed and he would receive a reward (1 Kings 13:7). The prophet's mission was clear, *"For so was it charged me by the word of the LORD, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest"* (1 Kings 13:9). The Tale From the Dark-side came from an older prophet who chased after the man of God and convinced him that an angel had given word that he should return with the old prophet (1 Kings 13:12-19). The problem is the old prophet lied (1 Kings 13:18b.). The end result of listening to the old prophet and not to God was a meeting with a lion. *"And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase"* (1 Kings 13:24). Imagine if every time anyone listened to a false teacher that they were killed by a wild animal. It is safe to say that people would be a little more careful how they listened. Jesus said, *"Take heed therefore how ye hear:"* (Luke 8:18). Sadly, even a child of God is capable of telling a "Tale From the Dark-side" (Galatians 1:6-9; 1 John 1:4).

Many tales of terror are told to make the hairs on our arms and necks stand on end. Shouldn't we as children of God be far more concerned about the real "TALES FROM THE DARK-SIDE" which have an eternal interest? *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope"* (Romans 15:4).

GOD IS MY HELPER

Andy Baker

Sometimes it can feel like everyone is out to get you. Coworkers unjustly accuse you to your boss. Friends act very friend-like and spread gossip. Hard circumstances appear, like the loss of a house or job, and there is little comfort from your family. When the world seems to come crashing in: Who will help me through this? It is difficult to admit the need for help, but horrendous situations arise when we cannot but seek it. For the worldly who know no other help, they seek it at the bottom of a bottle, or through entertainment and distraction, or through the comfort of things like food and shopping. For the Christian, we have our help in God. "The Lord is my helper," declared the psalmist when his world was falling in around him in Psalm 54. He gives at least four practical ways that those who fear God need not fear what man may do to us (Matt. 10:28).

He Helps Me by the Power in His Name (Psalm 54:1). There is power in the name of Christ our Savior (see Matt. 28:18; Acts 4:12; 1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:9-11)! At the name of Jesus, EVERY knee shall bow and EVERY tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord. Christians should not fear problems and difficulties, as though we do not have hope in anyone but ourselves! In the power of the name of Jesus, who saves His people, He vindicates us and helps us by His holy name. As the old song goes, take the name of Jesus with you!

He Helps Me by Answering Prayers (Psalm 54:2-3). God hears the prayers of those who are in-step with Him and strive to take Him at His word. Ask yourself: Does God know me as a close friend who speaks often with Him, or a distant relative who He seldom hears from, or as a total stranger who comes seeking assistance from Him? There are many admonitions in the New Testament encouraging Christians to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1; Luke 21:36; Acts 12:5; 2 Thess. 2:11; Phil. 4:6-7). God hears us, He cares for us, and He will help in difficulty (Heb. 13:5-6)!

He Helps Me by the Comfort of His People (Psalm 54:4-5). The church is such a powerful source of God's help! It is full of encouragement in living right (Rom. 1:11-12), comfort in hardship (2 Cor. 1:3-8), rebuke in sinfulness (Gal. 6:1-5), and love in every action (1 Cor. 13)! In Psalm 54:4, David mentions that God is with those who "uphold my life." Moses had his brethren to hold up his hands while he did battle with the forces of evil (Ex. 17:10-13). Who is holding up your hands and your life in your trials and difficulties?

He Helps Me by Shaping My Attitude (Psalm 54:6-7). Whether it be the difficult economy, job loss, loss of loved ones, family troubles, boss troubles, church troubles, or any other troubles, our attitudes can always be such that give glory to Him (Phil. 4:4; James 1:2-8)! God is still the helper of Christians! He can mold us and shape us to have joy in pain, comfort in sorrow, and confidence in our salvation! Look to face these problems just the way Jesus did (Heb. 12:1-3). Victory is ours if our attitude reflects those who have been given the victory (1 John 5:4)!

