

Crossville Church of Christ

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Elders:

Frank Bohannon

Eddie Brown

Bill Foland

Al Griffin

Jonathan Loveday

Larry McDuffee

Clyde Randolph

Deacons:

Jim Bell

Kyle Fairman

Jimmy Harris

David Kerley

Doug Loveday

Greg Maxwell

Brian McLaughlin

Mark Roberts

Roger Smith

Jon Tatum

Jason Wyatt

Jerry Wood

Minister:

Barry Kennedy

Missionaries:

Don Iverson

Jim Waldron

(India)

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

COMPASS

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

www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org

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July 3, 2011

Wednesday Summer Series (2011)



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT,

"Helping Christians to be ripe for the harvest."

July:

July 6: *"Why should we bear fruit?"* David Smith, Soddy Daisy, TN.

July 13: *"This is no ordinary fruit."* James Meadows, Knoxville, TN.

July 20: *"LOVE, The root of the fruit."* Alan Adams, Cantonment, FL.

July 27: *"JOY, The emotional fruit"* Gary Hampton, Ragland, AL.

August:

August 3: *"PEACE, The comfort fruit."* Ben Bailey, McMinnville, TN.

August 10: *"LONGSUFFERING, The fruit worth waiting for."* Byran Hatcher, Memphis, TN.

August 17: *"GENTLENESS, The fruit we share with others."* Joey Davis, Atlanta, TX.

August 24: *"GOODNESS, The fruit for our own good."* Kent O'Donnell, Palmerston, New Zealand.

August 31: *"FAITH" The fruit that pleases God."* Clarence DeLoach, Cookeville, TN.

September:

September 7: *"MEEKNESS, The fruit that reminds us who we are"* Wally Kirby, Sequatchie, TN.

September 14: *"TEMPERANCE, The fruit of self-control."* Bill Greer, Hixson, TN.

September 17: *"RIPE FOR THE HARVEST, Against such there is no law."* Edward Anderson, Carthage, TN.



THIS IS MY COUNTRY

Carl B. Garner



"This is my country; land of my birth; This is my country; grandest on earth..."

These words are part of a song familiar to many of us. It declares a powerful confidence in our country. Perhaps we should lay aside, if just for a moment, slavery, Teapot-Dome, Watergate, Vietnam, McVeigh, even Clinton and Lewinski. Ponder the principles upon which this nation was founded and has prospered. Consider the millions who long to come to America, thinking of it as a "paradise on earth." In spite of our weaknesses, try to think of the great things this nation still can achieve. Think what makes our country great. Think what the church of Christ can contribute to making America great.

FOCUS ON OUR PURPOSE In your tool box you have several tools, most of which are intended for a specific purpose. Usually when you try to make one tool fit the uses of another, failure results. A wrench seldom makes a very good hammer. Jesus purchased His church with His own "precious blood," 1 Peter 1:18-19. Don't you think He should have the preeminence in that church? The world assigns all kinds of responsibilities to "the church": feed the homeless, oppose war, provide activities for youth, build hospitals...you name it, someone has decided the church should do it. But when you read of the church in the Bible, they had another and grander purpose than the here-and-now emphasis of so many. Christ's church is to "glorify God," Romans 15:6, Ephesians 3:21. The church Jesus built was told to "go into all the world and preach the gospel," Mark 16:16. They followed Jesus' example by seeking and saving the lost, Luke 19:10. In the process of doing these things, many good and benevolent works were done. However, if our energies are side-tracked by man's assignments, we will be like that wrench trying to be a hammer. We might get some things done, but not accomplish the tasks God gave us. If we truly love this country, we will find out what God intends for us, and then do it.

CALL AMERICA BACK TO MORALITY Few will quarrel with our need to get back to values that emphasize honesty, responsibility, the dignity of work, the value of human life and the sanctity of our homes. Too often we get so caught up in numbers, budgets, programs and "church buildings" that we forget our land needs someone to call them back to its roots. That someone is us. We are told, individually and collectively, to be the "salt of the earth," Matthew 5:13. We must be examples to our neighbors in "word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity," 1 Timothy 4:12, and "shine as lights in the world," Philippians 2:15. Surveys reveal that 60% of high school students drink alcohol regularly. Over 1,500,000 abortions are performed annually in America. Rape, child abuse, incest, murder and assault is so commonplace that we are no longer shocked by them in the local newscasts. It is obvious that something must be done. Unfortunately, we have fallen down on the job. We have left the task of opposing abortion and other violations of biblical morality to the denominational world. We let our neighbors write to their congressmen about moral problems instead of getting involved ourselves. Divorce, once almost unheard of in Christ's church, now damages our reputation in the community. Isn't it time for us to be involved in the effort to call our nation back to morality and decency? Will you do it? Will I?

PRODUCE STABLE, BIBLICAL HOMES Divorce now ends one marriage out of every three. While rates often fluctuate, teen pregnancies have reached alarming numbers. Parents are portrayed as fools in movies and on TV. Fornication is the rule rather than the exception in major segments of our society. Many fathers are abandoning their families, refusing to provide either the financial or emotional needs of their children. The world is in desperate need of homes; homes that are stable; homes that rise above the immorality now running rampant nationally; homes that

produce children who are honest, who are diligent students, dependable employees. Mothers are needed who will teach their daughters modesty and righteousness. Fathers are needed who will protect and provide for their family, teaching their sons the value of a good name and a good work ethic. These responsibilities have already been given to Christian parents. And if we love our country and respect our heritage, we will do more this weekend than shoot firecrackers and make flowery speeches. We will do more than give lip-service to Bible principles. We will get busy making this nation what it can and should be: a light in the darkness of prejudice, injustice, war, materialism, fear and hunger. People have heard false teachers and seen fake religions for so long that they will have a hard time recognizing the real thing. We can and must show it to them so they can make an intelligent choice. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people," Proverbs 14:34. Recall the words of Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville in 1831 as he sought the strength of this country: "America is great because America is good. If she ever ceases to be good she will cease to be great." Is it too late for America to be great again? Will you help with the task of reintroducing America to the righteousness of God?



FROM LIBERTY TO CAPTIVITY

Barry Kennedy



We are blessed to be Americans living in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Americans have been blessed with the gift of freedom for so long that many are beginning to lose their appreciation of it. It seems as though we are handing over our freedoms little by little. Maybe it is because many of the people who have actually sacrificed for our freedom are passing on from this life. The fact remains that if we forsake our liberty, the only thing we have to look forward to is captivity. What about our spiritual liberty? Have we accessed the liberty from sin that God has made available through the sacrifice of Jesus? Are we maintaining our state of liberty? Paul encouraged the Galatian congregation to "*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage*" (Galatians 5:1). The soul lost in sin is the soul that is captive, or in bondage, to the master of sin. "*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*" (Romans 6:16). Are we really going to allow the tyrant Satan to enslave us again in the world of darkness, or will we rise up and walk in the pathway of light? Are we headed FROM LIBERTY TO CAPTIVITY?

Some think that being made free means being made free from all law. Clearly the scriptures teach that Jesus has made man free from the law. "*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death*" (Romans 8:2). What many fail to see is the law implied within the context of this very verse. Paul did not say Jesus made man free for every law, in fact, he says, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, **WHO WALK** (Emphasis mine B K) *not after the flesh, but after the Spirit*" (Romans 8:1). Walk implies ones manner of living which always follows some standard that has been taught by word, example, or strict enforcement. Bearing one another's burdens is a requirement of New Testament Christianity. "*Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the **LAW OF CHRIST***" (Galatians 6:2). Satan would love nothing more than to have Christians (those who have liberty) to use that liberty as an occasion of the flesh. "*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another*" (Galatians 5:13).*

As we remind ourselves of the liberty we enjoy as a nation on this Fourth of July, don't forget what it cost. Likewise, remember the great cost Jesus paid for our spiritual liberty. May we never be guilty of going FROM LIBERTY TO CAPTIVITY.