

**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

Email: mainstchurch@volfirst.net

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August 28, 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, Knoxville, TN.

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

WE ASSUME TOO MUCH

Barry Kennedy

A family of five was rushed to the hospital to have their stomachs washed out after the cat with whom they had shared a meal of mushrooms suddenly began to have stomach contractions. While members of the family showed no signs of illness, the doctor still had them rushed to the hospital. When they returned home they found the cat feeling well, after having produced five kittens. (England Post, in *Homemade*, April, 1989). This story may cause us to laugh, but how often do we find ourselves “jumping to conclusions?” We may strongly “think” that we have everything figured out, but is it possible that we may be assuming too much? Are we truly putting forth any effort to prove what we think we know? “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

One would have to admit that there are a lot of different “winds of doctrine” blowing around the religious world today. With this much confusion in religion, it is no wonder that people have conformed to the idea that anything pertaining to God is acceptable. After all, Jesus did say, “Judge not, that ye be not judged” (Matthew 7:1). The way many people use this verse is a good example of how people assume too much. Many people quote this verse without ever reading it’s context. Jesus did not condemn all judging with this statement, but rather the practice of prejudging. If we judge others without evidence we become prejudice. Jesus’ statement was a warning to make sure we are not going around with a “holier than thou” attitude. Jesus continued by saying, “Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye” (Matthew 7:5). One has to be assuming too much if he thinks Jesus said that no one can ever judge anyone about anything. Judgment is required in order to be a Christian. First, we must judge ourselves, are we sinners? Are we doing, or have we done, what God wants us to do? These questions require a judgment to be made. Are we making that judgment based upon our feelings (assumptions) or based upon facts. Remember the truth (a legal term), and only the truth, will make one free (John 8:32). Are we truly free from sin, or are we assuming too much?

God has offered His people assurance not assumptions. “And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.” (1 John 2:3). **Are we confident in our salvation?** According to John, the only way we can be is by keeping His commandments. I know some will say, “No one can keep God’s commandments.” After all, the Bible says that “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). It is true that all have sinned and that all will sin. John wrote, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). The assurance is shown in verse seven. “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). God is not asking for sinless perfection, but He does require faithful service (1 Corinthians 4:2). The beauty of God’s mercy and grace is that He makes us perfect (complete) in Christ. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). New carries the idea of being brand new not refashioned but NEW. Thayer defines the Greek word “kainos” as being “of a new kind, unprecedented, novel, uncommon, unheard of.” Are we sure that we have been made new? Do we base that knowledge upon the facts or assumptions? If we are assuming we are “made new,” we are not sure. However, if we are putting forth effort in Bible study and have “searched the scriptures daily, whether those things are so,” the Bible says we then will be noble.

So many people are terrified when it comes to life and death. God is not oblivious to this, but on the contrary, He knows very well how the pain of death feels (Matthew 26:39; John 15:13). That is one reason He has said that we can cast our cares upon Him, because He cares for us. (1 Peter 5:7). Yes, He has offered us assurance and we can know that we are right with God, but only through Jesus (John 14:6). What is our spirit today? One of fear, or one of assurance? “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). The real question is, “Are We Assuming Too Much?”

19 WORDS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Bob Prichard

Lockheed Martin Corporation has run some magazine ads under the title, “30 WORDS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.” The ad refers to President John F. Kennedy’s address to a joint session of congress on May 25, 1961, when he said, “I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal before this decade is out of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth.” President Kennedy’s words launched a new era in the space race. The goal he set was achieved on July 20, 1969 when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, something that all of us who observed will never forget. Those 30 words truly did change the world.

Consider the impact on our world of 19 words from the lips of the inspired apostle Peter. “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin” (Acts 2:38). Those were words that really changed the world forever. With those words, Peter proclaimed terms for admittance into the church, the body of Christ.

With those 19 words, the gates were open to all men to be reconciled to God. “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:39). Not only those who were there that day, 3,000 of whom gladly received the word and were baptized (Act 2:41), but their descendants, and we who were afar off (Gentiles), were given the opportunity to be a part of the blood bought church of our Lord.

With those 19 words that changed the world, man could no longer (mistakenly) think he could rely simply on his heritage to make him right with God. Those 19 words stressed individual responsibility to obey God. “And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation” (Acts 2:40). Those 19 words changed my life. I left denominationalism when I understood them properly. They will still change our world when others understand!

WHAT A WEEK

Barry Kennedy

It is great to be a Christian! Many of you have heard me talk about Polishing the Pulpit (PTP) and may be asking yourself, “What is this PTP?” Polishing the Pulpit began as a preaching workshop that has grown to become a “brotherhood” workshop. The directors, Allen Webster, Eddie Gilpen, Mark Howell, and David Barker work together under the oversight of the Jacksonville Church of Christ’s eldership to bring a “something for everyone” event each year to Sevierville, TN. I have been blessed to be at every PTP since 2004 and I look forward to going back every year. There is a fellowship at PTP unlike anything going on in the brotherhood today. There are VBS style classes for the young; Bible camp style sessions for older children; teen sessions dealing with the issues facing today’s young maturing boys and girls; marriage and parenting tracts, focusing upon building and maintain godly marriages and homes; women’s sessions which some have commented, “It’s like a week long ladies day,”; deacon and elder tracts focusing upon ideas to help men to grow in leadership roles; and of course preacher sessions helping ministers to refocus, learn new ideas/technologies and share with other godly servants more effective ways for proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. People come from coast to coast for this “Once-in-a-lifetime event that we get to enjoy every year” (Bob Prichard). This year PTP had almost 2000 people registered to attend. The Bible was preached, zeal was renewed, and fellowship was enjoyed. What a week! Maybe you would like to see for yourself? You can go to www.polishingthepulpit.com and hear lessons and gather information to make your own plans to have WHAT A WEEK next year.