

Crossville Church of Christ

P.O. Box 211

Crossville, TN 38557

Phone

484-5297 or 484-2960

Fax 707-0025

COMPASS

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

www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org

Email: Office@crossvillechurchofchrist.org

Elders@crossvillechurchofchrist.org



Elders:

Frank Bohannon
Jiggs Killgore
Jonathan Loveday
Larry McDuffee
Brian McLaughlin
Jon Tatum

Deacons:

Jim Bell
Charles Evans
Kyle Fairman
Dale Hennessee
Mike Isaacson
David Kerley
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

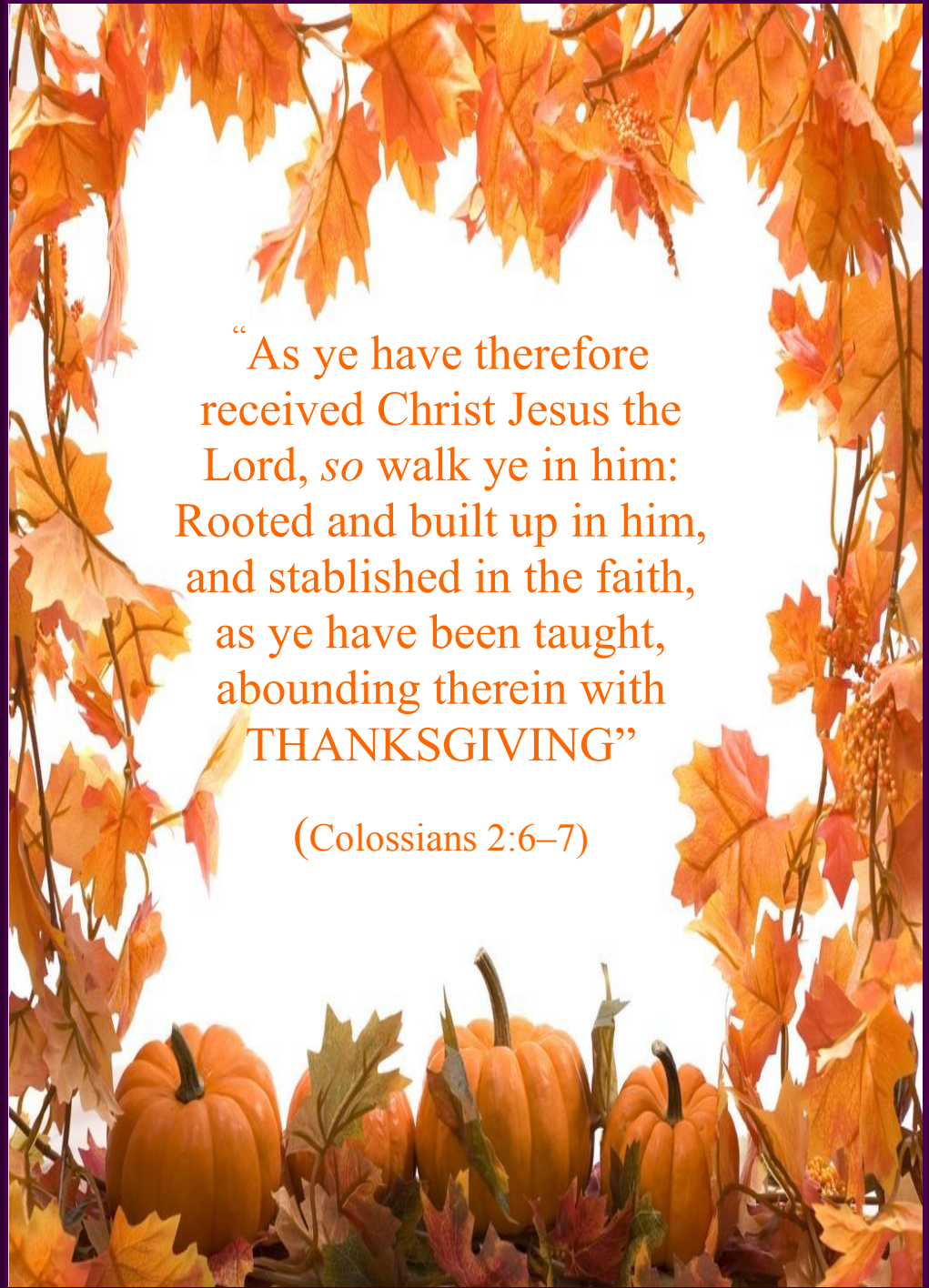
OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class	
Tuesdays	11AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM

November 15, 2015

“As ye have therefore
received Christ Jesus the
Lord, so walk ye in him:
Rooted and built up in him,
and stablished in the faith,
as ye have been taught,
abounding therein with
THANKSGIVING”

(Colossians 2:6-7)



THE THREE GIFTS: A ROBE, A RING, AND SHOES (RESTORATION HAS ITS REWARDS) pt 3

Barry Kennedy

The final gift the Father bestowed upon his penitent prodigal son was: **THE SHOES, RESTORING THE GIFT OF ABILITY.** The prodigal's misadventures placed him in a position of destitution and slavery. It would have been common place for the slaves of that day to be barefoot. "Slaves went barefoot. Thus, we have here a threefold symbol of freedom and honor, restored, as the fruit of perfect reconciliation" (Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown). Freedom is one of those words that almost sings as it flows from the lip, that is if one truly appreciates his freedom, or desires greatly to be free. America has enjoyed the greatest span of national freedom known to man, but has that long term freedom caused many to forget its value? Could it be said that many Americans do not appreciate freedom because they have never experienced life without it? Does this not fit the prodigal's attitude when he was at home? Living on his "father's dime" the son failed to see the freedom he had and longed to be "set free." It wasn't long before he found out just how free he really was at home. In fact, his destitution in the "free land" brought him to his senses and produced a longing to be a servant at home. He knew in his heart that he could never be worthy of returning to his former position in the home. What he failed to realize in the hog pen was his father's desire to have him back home.

Many today also fail to take into consideration the feelings of the Father. It is easy to quote the words "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Returning that love through faithful service is something else altogether (John 14:15). Almost anyone can see his need to serve the master when he is on the receiving end of hardships. God is like the father always waiting and watching for His prodigals to return (Luke 15:20). God not only wants His people to cast their cares upon Him, but to never forget the fact that He cares for every man (1 Peter 5:7). The shoes of ability are God's blessing to man showing the confidence He places in man's ability to serve Him. That brings to mind another parable Jesus taught concerning a master bestowing talents (Matthew 25:14ff). Upon reading this parable one should be reminded that the master gave the talents "to everyman according to his several ability (emph. mine BK)" (Matthew 25:15). God understands very well the ability man has even though we often deny it.

The three gifts are all articles that are to be worn. Also, these three articles could clearly be seen by anyone with whom the son came in contact. The image expressed is one of great compassion shown by the father toward the son who was rejected, disgraced, and even reprimanded by the older brother. Through it all the father's love still rewarded to the fullest extent. God still wants to restore his prodigals even today. He still longs to deliver the sandals of freedom to the wayward child who is wasting his substance with riotous living. Sadly, it is going to take a few starving days, months, or years in the hog pen of sin's slavery for some to realize their need to "come home."

Christians are not ready to take on the battle for the soul without having the proper footwear. During the Civil War in this country many hardships befell the soldiers on both sides of the battle.

Both Armies faced problems with mosquitos and lice. Exposure turned many cases of normal colds into pneumonia and other complicated ailments. Pneumonia was the third leading killer disease of the war, after typhoid and dysentery. A lack of shoes and proper clothing further complicated the problem (Emph. mine BK), especially in the Confederacy. The soldier's diet was somewhere between barely palatable to absolutely awful. It was estimated that 995 of 1,000 Union troops eventually contracted chronic diarrhea or >>>

dysentery; Confederates suffered similarly. Disease particularly ran rampant in the prisons, as many of these conditions that led to disease were very much present (Goellnitz Wiki.net).

Paul used military armor to describe the Christian's preparation for the soul's battle.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (Ephesians 6:11-17).

Notice Paul said that the feet must be shod with the "preparation of the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15). The Gospel is God's power to save man (Romans 1:16). The Gospel is the good news that Jesus died for man's sins, that He was buried, and that He was resurrected the third day according to the scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Therefore, the gospel is that which produces freedom. Barefoot prodigal was enslaved. The father said, "Put on your shoes and take hold of your ability as my son." He still says the same thing to man today.

CONCLUSION God has provided everything that we need for life and godliness. "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" (2 Peter 1:3). This parable is one of great instruction on the basics of brotherly love, forgiveness, and of course restoration. God has not given up on man, even though man may have given up on himself. He still offers the gifts of identity (the robe) as His children, authority (the ring) over the power of temptation through His word, and finally ability (the shoes) to do His will and have a home in Heaven (John 14:1-6). All the prodigals would do well to see the Father waiting and longing for His children to come in penitence to receive their gifts. It is clear from the study of the three gifts offered to the prodigal that restoration has its rewards.

A CHANGING STANDARD

Bob Pritchard

Although the metric system has never been fully implemented in the United States, it is still important, because our measurements, such as the pound, are derived from the metric system. The pound is derived from a one kilo metal cylinder (90% platinum and 10% iridium) in Sevres, France. That standard kilo is equivalent to exactly 2.2046 pounds. Seven exact copies of the standard kilo, called prototypes, are triple locked in a safe in Sevres. There is a problem, though, because the prototypes have begun to diverge in weight. While the differences are extremely small (50 micrograms or less), scientists are concerned, and don't know why the changes have happened (Elizabeth Weise, "Scientists ask: Is the kilo losing weight?" *USA Today*, April 19, 2011, p. 3B).

The international standards date to the French revolution of 1789, when measurements varied from one country to another. French scientists developed standard weights, lengths, etc. The problem that should concern us is that small shifts in the standard can add up to larger and larger changes.

The Bible, of course, is our standard—and it is an unchanging standard. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Proverbs 22:8 and 23:10 warn, "Remove not the ancient landmark." Removing the landmarks meant removing that from which everything was measured.

We agree that the Bible is our standard, but how often do we ask ourselves if we are really adhering to God's standard? Do we know it well enough to measure our lives by the standard? Are we ever guilty of letting the standard change? Do we have one standard for others concerning love, honesty, etc. for others, and another for ourselves?