

Crossville Church of Christ

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COMPASS

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

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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

August 2, 2015



S U M M E R S E R I E S

JULY

July 8: "My Joy & My Crown, an Introduction"

Ben Bailey, McMinnville, TN

July 15: "My Joy & My Crown in Grace & Peace" (Phil. 1:2)

Tom Holland, Brentwood, TN

July 22: "My Joy & My Crown in Prayer & Preaching" (Phil. 1:4, 15-18)

Jason Gann, McMinnville, TN

July 29: "My Joy & My Crown in Faith" (Phil. 1:25)

Brandon Parsley, McMinnville, TN

AUGUST

August 5: "My Joy & My Crown in Fellowship & Unity" (Phil. 1:5, 2:1, 2)

Bill Williams, Manchester, TN

August 12: "My Joy & My Crown in Christ's Return" (Phil. 2:16)

Tony Britt, Pikeville, TN

August 19: "My Joy & My Crown in Christian Service" (Phil. 2:17-22)

Paul Sain, Pulaski, TN

August 26: "My Joy & My Crown Being in the Lord" (Phil. 3:1-7)

Ralph Hart, Manchester, TN

SEPTEMBER

September 2: "My Joy & My Crown in Present & Future Things" (Phil. 3:13-14)

Stephen Law, Crossville, TN

September 9: "My Joy & My Crown in Right Thinking" (Phil. 4:8)

Tony Lawrence, McMinnville, TN

September 16: "My Joy & My Crown in Contentment" (Phil. 4:11-12)

Dale Barger, Wheeler Hill, TN

September 23: "My Joy & My Crown in Christ Given Strength" (Phil. 4:13)

David Lipe, Cookeville, TN

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO AMERICA?

Paul Sain

Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and others – the founding fathers of our great nation would hardly recognize the America of the twenty-first century! The Declaration of Independence (signed on July 4, 1776), as well as Abraham Lincoln's words contained in the Gettysburg Address (1863): "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" spoke of the greatness of America. The foundation on which the United States of America was founded has been attacked, chipped away, and partially destroyed.

It is a terrifying and heart-breaking thought to consider what has happened to America in the last 50 to 100 years! While every nation has experienced problems and concerns, at some point in their existence, conditions have now deteriorated in the United States to discouraging lows. If America is not extremely cautious, the United States of America is headed for total destruction.

PASSIONATE PATRIOTISM When I hear the words of the song, "My country, tis of thee..." it makes me have emotional thoughts of thankfulness and joy. The National Anthem is filled with deep and precious messages. Without doubt America is still the greatest, the best! Yet none can successfully contend that she is a godly nation, "one nation under God" as in years past. Far too many changes have occurred! Is it too late? Can anything be done to bring America back to her greatness?

A LESSON FROM HISTORY In the ever popular and powerful book *The History of the Decline And Fall Of The Roman Empire* (first published in six volumes) by Edward Gibbons (1737-1794), we benefit from his summary of what caused that great empire to crumble and brought on destruction.

Gibbons pointed out a few major areas of collapse. Note them with me and see how they relate to America today.

(1) Decline of morals and values. Alert citizens of America KNOW of the drastic and discouraging changes which have occurred morally in America. What God has declared evil, man often pronounces as acceptable and/or good. Man has esteemed himself to a position of determining what is right and wrong. We have become numb to sinful and evil practices. From the killing of babies to sexual involvement with most anyone, including homosexuality – many say that these type of actions are an acceptable lifestyle.

(2) Political corruption. Senators, sheriffs, mayors, commissioners, etc. – seems none are exempt from choosing an evil and illegal course of action. Arrests, indictments, prison terms are tragically common. (3) Unemployment and crime drastically increased. Unemployment is at an extreme high level. Crime statistics are alarming. The attitude of many is "what is mine is mine, what is thine is mine" if I am big enough to take it from you. (4) Higher taxes which undermined the economic stability. Who can deny the certainty of this occurring? The exact numbers regarding government employees, government spending are frightening. (5) Break-down of the nation's military defense. The mind set of far too many calls for a reduction in our military strength. Such action has proven to be a destructive force time after time in the history of world powers. In their ignorance to the extent of present dangers and the power and number of their enemies, they were vulnerable and easy prey. America is walking down the same road to utter destruction. IS ALL HOPELESS? Are we wise enough to hear a call of repentance, as Jonah spoke to Nineveh in the long ago? Are we courageous enough to stand against foolish and liberal ways? Are we willing to do our part in making this country a "godly nation" once again?

DO NOT SIN AGAINST THE CHILDREN

Wayne Jackson

Jacob's eldest son, Reuben scolded his younger brothers: "Did I not tell you, 'Do not sin against the child'; and you would not listen?"

The foregoing question of accusation was framed when the disguised Joseph, then a ruler in Pharaoh's court, demanded that their younger brother, Benjamin, be brought into the land of Egypt (Genesis 42:22).

Reuben's question reflected the fear that perhaps the hand of Providence finally had caught up with those Israelite men on account of their harsh treatment of Joseph in his tender years.

Sin always is wrong—at any time, at any place, and when perpetrated upon anyone. Somehow, though, we are especially incensed when innocent children are assaulted.

There is a great cry these days against child abuse. And yet society sins against youngsters in so many ways in today's cruel world, and much of it is calculated and headstrong.

Abortion More than a million babies are slaughtered each year in America before they ever see the light of day. Since *Roe vs. Wade* (1973), nearly fifty million children have been murdered in the womb. That is more loss of life than combined U.S. deaths in all of the wars in the previous two centuries of our country's existence. Adolf Hitler's death camps were tame compared to our abortion chambers.

The infanticide problem has been rationalized by the allegation that the fetus is not a human. Rather, it is but an expendable appendage of the female's body. Such a position is indefensible, either biblically or scientifically. A pamphlet issued several years ago by Planned Parenthood stated: "An abortion requires an operation. It kills the life of the baby after it has begun" (1963). It could not have been stated better—and from such an unlikely source.

Evolution From the earliest days of their intellectual perception, the youth of this nation are bombarded with evolutionary propaganda which argues the following premises: (1) Humanity has evolved from inanimate sources, hence, there is no need to believe in the idea of a supernatural creation (i.e., the existence of a Creator). (2) Since God does not exist, appropriate human conduct is not regulated by some supreme Being. Rather, man, as his own "god," operates by a moral code that is both autonomous and situational (see Kurtz and Wilson). This means he does

what he wants, when he wants, accountable to no one but himself.

The effect of evolutionary philosophy upon belief in a Moral Governor is demonstrated clearly by a statement from Sir Gavin De Beer, former director of the British Museum of Natural History:

Darwin did two things: he showed that evolution was a fact contradicting scriptural legends of creation and that its cause, natural selection, was automatic, with no room for divine guidance or design (1984, 23).

No divine guidance! Then who will provide the guidance? Every person will do that which is right in his own judgment, and moral chaos will result—and has.

Moral Relativism The so-called intellectuals in America have given our nation a legacy of amoral irresponsibility, and such invades our homes regularly. We have taught our youth that there is no ultimate moral responsibility. In his book, *The Sexual Wilderness*, Vance Packard wrote:

The discoveries of astronomers, geologists, and space explorers have undermined the faith of all but the most devout that there is a physical Heaven or Hell. And among believers, God is more likely to be seen as a force or spirit than as an all-seeing watcher over human behavior above (1968, 27).

Grim consequences have resulted. Pitirim A. Sorokin, a sociologist at Harvard University, has noted: "Our sex freedom is beginning to expand beyond the limits of safety" (Packard, 16-17).

If such was true forty years ago, what shall be said of today's environment of moral debauchery? Is such anarchy really a surprise when philosophers like Bertrand Russell have taught that young people should be free to engage in sexual intimacy whenever there is a mutual contact. This is the *modus operandi* of animals!

The rogue philosopher contended: "Outside human desires there is no moral standard" (1957, 62).

[Editor's note: The child has become father to the man. The twisted philosophies of Russell and others have produced all manner of abuse for even the tenderest members of our society. Child pornography, abuse, kidnapping, and torture is more common than ever in our nation's history. And doctors nonchalantly joke about selling baby parts to fund their lavish lifestyle. Do not sin against the children!]

Conclusion It is time that we recognize the value of our children. They are the future of this world. We must care for them, teach them, and fortify their precious souls against the evils that would assault them. May each of us resolve to dedicate ourselves to this end.