

Crossville Church of Christ

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Elders:

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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

COMPASS

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

www.crossvillechurchofchrist.org

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January 17, 2015

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

Glenn Hitchcock

The road to success is not straight . . .

There is a curve called failure . . .

A loop called Confusion . . .

Speed bumps called friends . . .

Red lights called enemies . . .

Caution lights called family . . .

You will have flats called jobs. But . . .

If you have a spare called DETERMINATION . . .

And an engine called PERSEVERANCE . . .

Insurance called FAITH . . .

And a driver called JESUS . . .

You WILL make it to a place called success!

*"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness
of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for
evermore" (Psalm 16:11).*



IN THE SHADOW OF HIS WINGS

Patrick Morrison

One of the most comforting thoughts in Scripture is the idea of living in the shadow of the wings of Almighty God. The image of a mother bird with wings outstretched to shield her chicks from danger and the elements is one with which most are familiar. The story is told of park rangers in Yellowstone surveying the charred landscape after lightning had ignited a rather large-scale forest fire. While walking through the ravaged remains of the once lush forest, a park ranger heard the sound of young birds chirping at the base of a tree. He followed the sound to find a mother bird facing the base of a large tree with wings outstretched, singed to death by the heat of the blaze. As the park ranger moved the deceased bird, he found a number of chicks that had survived the fire because of the sacrifice of the mother. Jesus drew upon this imagery as he looked out over the city of Jerusalem: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” (Matt.22:37). God extends to all men the opportunity to dwell in the shadow of His wings. Just what do we find therein?

In the shadow of God’s wings we find **AFFECTION**. The psalmist wrote, “Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings” (Psa.17:8). David’s prayer was that God might always set His affections upon His faithful children. Jehovah set His affection upon the sons of Jacob (Deut.32:10) so that through the blessed seed-line the Christ might come into the world to bless all men. Even when Israel and Judah rebelled against the goodness and mercy of the Almighty, He still looked upon them as the apple of His eye (Zech.2:8). Job asked, “What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? And that thou shouldest set thine heart upon him?” (Job 7:17). While we are not deserving of God’s loving-favor, we are nonetheless grateful for it! The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous (1 Pet.3:12). Since He is faithful to keep us in His affection, shouldn’t we set our hearts upon Him? “Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye” (Prov.7:2).

In the shadow of God’s wings we find **PROTECTION**. During a time of great duress and calamity, the psalmist poured out his soul: “Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast” (Psa.57:1). In another place he would pen these words: “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler” (Psa.91:4). We serve a God who will protect His children! He is our refuge and strength (Psa.46:1). We can turn to Him in the storms of life, knowing that He will safely carry us through. We sometimes sing, “Dear Lord, what 'ere the storm may be, I'll simply trust in thee.” Children of God have the assurance that He will be with us, even in the difficulties of life. There is comfort in knowing that the wings of Jehovah are outstretched over the lives of His children.

In the shadow of God’s wings we find time for **REFLECTION**. As the psalmist had opportunity to meditate upon God and His word, he declared, “My mouth shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice” (Psa.67:5-7). When we stop to consider all that God has done for us, how can we not be overwhelmed? Knowing that He loves me, provides for me, and protects me thrills my soul and fills me with gladness and gratitude. God is good to His people, and living in the shadow of His wings gives us time to pause and consider that goodness.



Full Assurance

By Barry Kennedy

Have you ever had full assurance in something? The word assurance, as defined in Webster's II Dictionary Office Edition, means "1. a statement intended to inspire confidence: guarantee. 2a. Certainty. b. Self-confidence. 3. Audacity: boldness." No doubt, we all have experienced full assurance in some area of our lives. It could be (should be) the case that we have full assurance in our marriage relationships (Genesis 2:24, 25; Matthew 19:6). Maybe we have full assurance in our careers? No matter how much confidence we may have in this world, there is a possibility that we can be wrong. Solomon put it this way, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25). What really matters is whether or not we have full assurance in our spiritual lives. This in turn will help to shore up the other aspects of life (i.e. marriage, career, etc.).

Do we have full assurance in our origin? Where did we originate? Many "great minds" have sought an answer to this question. Some have become so intelligent that they cannot accept the truth that God is the source of all life. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The problem many have, realize it or not, is man does not like to be held accountable. Wayne Jackson, Kyle Butt, and Eric Lyons have written the book "Surveying the Evidence" which deals with the evidences of creation and God's existence. On page 27 they came to the summation:

- (1) Life was either spontaneously generated by accident from inorganic substances, or it was created purposely by an eternal force. . .
- (2) But all **evidence** indicates it does not, and could not, start spontaneously by chance.
- (3) The evidence forces one to believe that life originally was created by an Eternal Life Force!

Please notice that in Genesis 1:1 there is no attempt made to try and establish the existence of God. Moses set forth to proclaim that the origin of this earth, the cosmos, and all things in them are from God. This is important because of the destination we all face. "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall **return unto God who gave it**" (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Do we have full assurance in this truth?

Do we have full assurance in our God? Many people profess a faith in the God of Heaven and earth. The problem is that far too often this "faith" is not one of full assurance. Think about how close the apostles were to Jesus, yet they still found themselves lacking in faith (full assurance) from time to time. Peter walked on the water until he lost his assurance (Matthew 14:25-31). Jesus accused Peter of having "little faith" because he doubted. Thomas is another example of one needing full assurance (John 20:24-29). When Jesus was real to him he had assurance enough to say "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). Is God real to us? Is He in Fact our Lord and our God?

Why should we have full assurance in God? This is a good question and one that should be answered. There are many reasons as to why we should trust in God. **First**, because God cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18). **Second**, because of who God is, Creator and Sustainer of life. Design requires a designer, effect must have a cause, and nothing only produces nothing. "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is. . ." (Exodus 20:11). God is also the sustainer of life according to Hebrews 1:3, and Colossians 1:17. **Third**, because God will be our judge in the last day. "For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those that believe" (1 Timothy 4:10).

We are given such wonderful blessings in this life (John 10:10). However, the blessing of an abundant life are non-existent to the soul that lacks full assurance. Would Jesus say to us today, "Wherefore didst thou doubt" (Matthew 14:31)? Fear is a dreaded enemy to the Christian life. "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). "Sound mind" can be looked at as being synonymous with full assurance. Take inventory of your own life and ask the question, "In what do I have full assurance today." Make sure it is in God.