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# **The Tragedy of Certainty**



**David  
Crockett**

**August 17,  
1786 –  
March 6,  
1836**



# Famous Quote

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- I leave this rule for others when I'm dead  
Be always sure you're right — THEN GO  
AHEAD
- Personal Motto and Battle Cry – GO  
AHEAD!
- Sound advice, but .... Have you ever been  
absolutely, positively convinced you were  
right, so you went ahead, and kept going  
and going, only to discover you were  
terribly, tragically wrong?



# Acts 7

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<sup>57</sup> But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. <sup>58</sup> When they had driven him out of the city, they *began* stoning *him*; and **the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.** <sup>59</sup> They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, **“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”** <sup>60</sup> Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, **“Lord, do not hold this sin against them!”** Having said this, he <sup>[ag]</sup>fell asleep.



# Acts 8:1-3

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**Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.**

And on that day a great persecution [a]began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. <sup>2</sup> *Some* devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> **But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.**



# Ask You One More Time

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- Have you ever been absolutely positively sure you were right ...
- Prayed about, over and over, and maybe you even researched in the Word and found verses to back up your position
- So, you took action – and maybe you did so with a heavy heart, but you were convinced it was right and YOU WERE RIGHT
- And it all blew up in your face?



# Resume of Rightness!

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- If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:  
<sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.
- <sup>7</sup> But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ – Philippians 3:4-7



# Wrong Way to Be Right

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- Look at the fruit – when your right actions produce wrong fruit, you are wrong
- There is no wrong way to do a right thing!
- Saul was bitter, angry, self-righteous, judgmental, gladly breaking rules in the pursuit of his “rightness”
- First tip off we are really wrong is the fruit it produces in ourselves and in the lives of others

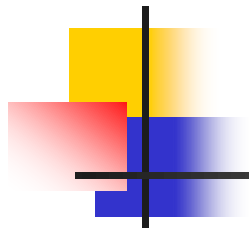




# What is the Remedy?

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- 1 Corinthians 15: For I am the least of the apostles, [<sup>e</sup>]and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> **But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain**
- Step one, Repent and face the fact that you were wrong – no excuses
- Step two, throw yourself on God's mercy, Who can make all things NEW



# Power Encounters

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The Holy Spirit will give  
you the ability to tell  
what *you have*  
*experienced* - with  
*miraculous* results!!!!



# Outrageously Amazing Message!!

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY