



## Christ is Our Foundation

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#### Introduction:

- I. In the book of I Corinthians we know that Paul is addressing several questions or issues in which the Christians in Corinth were struggling.
  - A. There are eleven issues that Paul deals with in the first letter to the Corinthians.
    1. He first deals with the church being divided among themselves for really what were petty matters. (1-6)
    2. Then he moves to a heart breaking issue in which they were allowing an unrepentant sexual immoral individual to remain undisciplined. (5)
    3. Paul deals with Christians struggling with personal issues yet instead of properly working through those concerns among themselves or with the church leaders; they were taking one another to secular courts. (6:1-11)
    4. He teaches the church concerning how to be morally pure and how to flee from sexual immorality. (6:12-20)
    5. Paul speaks about godly marriages. (7)
    6. He taught the people not to be stumbling blocks to others over matters of opinion. (8-10)
    7. Paul relates that men and women are to honor God and each other in matters of cultural and social behaviors. (11:2-16)
    8. Paul teaches the Corinthians how to properly observe the Lord's Supper. (11:17-34)
    9. He gives instructions concerning the proper use the miraculous or spiritual gifts that existed at that time. (12-14)
    10. He instructs the people of the resurrection of the death and how our bodies will be changed from the physical to the spiritual. (15)

11. And finally he teaches the church how they are to be individuals that have giving hearts. (16)

B. So, Paul deals with several different topics as he addresses these issues and problems in Corinth.

▶ II. With this background information, we notice an important thought when Paul was dealing with the division and factions that existed in the Corinth church.

A. He speaks about their immaturity in the faith, relating that they were still “babes in Christ” and needed spiritual “milk” instead of solid spiritual food.

B. He illustrates their division in mentioning how they were selecting sides concerning who baptized who!

1. They were trying to boast in themselves and taking pride in who had baptized them; whether it was Paul, Apollos, or someone else. (1:12)

2. Paul corrects this issue by reminding them that we all belong to God when our hearts are right and we submit to Him. (1:13)

3. He also relates that there may be several individuals involved in the training and teaching someone, yet it is “God who gives the increase.” (3:7)

C. Paul then begins to provide direction concerning how to be “fellow workers” working together for the Lord. (3:9-15)

1. And He compares us to contractors working to build an awesome and glorious building.

2. Yet, with any construction project there must be a solid foundation on which to build.

a. I can remember as a youngster, my dad decided to add a nice big den onto our house.

b. And I remember seeing for the first time construction workers digging the footers, pouring the concrete, and making the foundation for that added room.

c. I asked my dad why they dug it so deep and why not just smooth out the ground and lay the blocks on the ground.

d. And he explained the necessity of having a strong foundation and he had me sing the song, “The Wiseman Built His House upon the Rock.”

e. I understood what would have happened to our new den when I got to the part where the foolish man’s house went “smash!”

3. Friends, we must build our spiritual lives upon the spiritual rock that God has provided!

▶ III. The purpose of our lesson is to recognize the true spiritual foundation on which we must build our lives.

- A. Just like a building, if our foundation crumbles then the hold building goes smash.
- B. And if we build our spiritual lives on the wrong or false foundation they our spiritual lives will ultimately crumble.
- C. So, what does Paul teach those in Corinth concerning what is our foundation?

I Corinthians 3:11

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

Discussion:

▶ I. Jesus is the foundation for His church!

- A. In the verses preceding I Corinthians 3:11; Paul relates that we are God’s building and he encourages his readers to take heed how we build. (3:10)
  1. We can have a great foundation but build with the wrong building materials and then our building is weak and unstable.
  2. But you can also have the very best of building materials yet if your foundation is not solid, your building will not last.
  3. The Lord provides the best of foundations and He also provides the best of building materials. Yet we must be willing to build on His foundation with what He has provides for us.

▶ B. Jesus related to His Apostles that He was going to build His church! (Matthew 16:13-18)

1. While speaking to them, He asked the question concerning what others were saying about Him. “Who do men say that I am?”
2. They answered that the many thought that He was one of the great prophets like John the Baptist, Elijah or Jeremiah.
3. He then turned the tables on them and asked what they thought about Him. “Who do you say that I am?”

4. And we know the answer that Peter gave: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
5. It is from this Truth, this foundation, that Jesus is “the Son of the living God,” that the Christ was going to build His church. (Matthew 16:18)



C. So, the Lord is the solid foundation that is perfectly laid in which the church is to be built.

1. There is no more suitable foundation, no more stable rock, upon for the Lord’s church.
  - a. Some have attempted to suggest that Jesus was saying in this passage that Peter was the rock upon which the church would be founded!
  - b. Yet, we have already recognized from Paul that Christ is our only foundation.

I Corinthians 3:11

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

2. Paul relates to the Christians in Ephesus that Christ is the foundation for the household of God.

Ephesians 2:19-22

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

3. Peter relates that Christ is the proper foundation (or corner stone) and yet there will be many that deny Him and His church, rejecting the foundation as well as the true spiritual building materials.

I Peter 2:4-8

“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," And "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed."



4. There are several reason why our foundation ought to be Christ!

a. He is Deity!

- 1) No man would have the capability to be the foundation of the church.
- 2) Every man has sinned and fallen short of God's glory, therefore no man is worthy enough to be the rock on which the church could stand.
- 3) Yet, Christ was sinless and the perfect One in which His church can stand!

b. He is the Redeemer!

- 1) Christ paid for the church! He purchased it with His own blood.
- 2) Paul reminds the elders of Ephesus that they should carefully oversee the church because Christ purchased it with "His own blood." (Acts 20:28)
- 3) Peter relates that we are redeemed by Christ's precious blood.

I Peter 1:18-19

"knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

c. Christ is the head of the church!

- 1) Other religious groups attempt to place a single man in charge or possibly a group of individuals to lead and direct their church.
- 2) Just recently I saw a news story concerning a rather large denominational group that was having a vote by its governing board to determine if homosexuality was acceptable or not. They were leading that group instead of our Lord and King; and ultimately their spiritual house will fall.

- 3) Yet the Bible teaches that Christ is the Head of His Church.

Colossians 1:15-18

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

- 4) Why would you want anyone different than the Creator of all things and the Controller of all creation to be foundation and the head of the church?

▶ D. From our text, Paul is not saying that it is impossible to “TRY” to use someone else or something else as a foundation. He is simply saying that there is only one true foundation and that one solid foundation is Jesus Christ.

1. We can look around and see other groups attempting to build their structural belief and faith upon a different foundation. And sometimes these different religious beliefs grow and build to be rather large with a great following of believers.
2. However ultimately they will fall because their foundation is not established in Christ!
3. I mentioned the song earlier of the wise man and the foolish man. Jesus tells this story of the wise man that built his house upon a solid rock while the foolish man built upon a weak and inferior foundation.

Matthew 7:24-27

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

6. You might see another group growing with massive numbers and see their enthusiasm; and you begin to question if they might be right!

7. Yet, let me remind you that Jesus tells this story of the wise man and foolish man right after talking about the two different spiritual paths. (Matthew 7:13-14)
  - a. The broad path is easy and many will follow in that direction.
  - b. While narrow is the godly path and it is difficult to tread. And Jesus stated that only a few will follow in that direction.
8. Still in the same context, Jesus teaches that many will call Him Lord, Lord, however He will not know them because they do not do the will of God. (Matthew 7:21-23)

E. Notice throughout this discussion, Jesus emphasizes for His listeners to heed to the word of God.

1. Twice during His story of the wise man and foolish man, Jesus states; “whoever hears these saying of Mine...” (Matthew 7:24, 26)
2. Right after speaking about the two pathways Jesus instructs His followers to “beware of false prophets” or teachers. (7:15)
3. And when He speaks about those that call Him “Lord, Lord;” yet He relates that they do not obey His Father’s will. (7:21)
4. Fulfilling the message and directives that Christ has given us is indeed building correctly upon His foundation.

▶ II. This leads us to the next point of our lesson. How can I know that I am building on the true foundation of Christ? Bear with me as we work our way to answering this question!

A. The Apostle John referred to Christ as the Word!

John 1:1-2, 14

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

▶ 1. What does it mean that Jesus is the Word?

- a. Jesus is the One that spoke the Message of the Father that we are to follow and obey.

John 12:45-50

“And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.  
 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.  
 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

- b. John refers to Jesus as the Word because Christ is our spokesman from God!

Hebrews 1:1-2

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,  
 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;”



- 2. And notice how that the Apostles John and Paul connected Jesus our spokesman as the One who made the worlds.
  - a. John related that it was through the “Word” that everything “was made.” (John 1:3) Paul stated that Christ “made the worlds.”
  - b. Paul also writes to the Christians in Colosse saying by Christ “all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:16)
  - c. Follow with me here! How did Jesus create everything?
  - d. Christ is the Word! He spoke the Father’s will. Jesus was the One that spoke everything into existence.
  - e. Nine times in the first chapter of Genesis the phrase “Then God said...” and everything was created. Jesus spoke and everything was created.
- 3. Christ is the Word, He has been the spokesman for Deity since the very beginning of time!



- B. Therefore being our spokesman then we recognize that Christ gave us the Father’s will to follow!
  - 1. Jesus taught the necessity to obey His Message because He was presenting the Father’s will that would set us free from sin.

John 8:28-29

“Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

As He spoke these words, many believed in Him.

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him,

(This is the key in understanding if I am building upon the correct foundation with the correct building materials)

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.””

2. Again the Hebrew writer relates that Christ is the “author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” (Hebrews 5:9)



C. So, let pull all this together!

1. We have already recognized that Christ is our foundation.
2. We also see that His Word is the Message or the Will of the Father.
3. Therefore, if we follow the Message that Christ has given to us, then we know for sure that we are founded upon the proper spiritual foundation.
4. The word of Christ is the foundation for our faith and for the church, anything else would not be the Lord’s foundation.

Galatians 1:8-12

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

5. I know that I am established upon the foundation of Christ when I listen and follow (obey), everything that Christ taught me to do!



III. So, here is our challenge for us today!

- A. Compare what you do in every facet of life with the foundational Message of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:17

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

1. Is your conduct in everyday life based upon the Lord and what He has directed us to do? At your job, in school, at home, during recreation periods, in every aspect of your daily life, are you allowing the Lord to be your anchor, your solid rock?
2. What about in your spiritual life? Is your worship practices founded upon the directives that the Lord has given?
  - a. Have you done what Jesus commanded to receive the wonderful and precious grace of God?
  - b. Have you explored what you have done or what others might have taught you concerning how to receive God forgiveness and salvation?
  - c. Is your salvation based from the Message that Christ presented to us?
3. Is your life, is your faith founded upon Christ? Are you standing upon the rock solid Word of Christ?



- B. There will come a day in which everyone’s lives will be compared with the foundational Message that Jesus presented to us.

John 12:47-48

“And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.

He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

1. On the Day of Judgement it will be too late if our life is not founded upon Christ and His Word.
2. But right now, it is not too late. Right now, you have the opportunity to compare your life to the Word of Christ, and if you are not grounded upon the foundation that Christ established, you still have the opportunity to change.
3. The question is “will you?”

Conclusion:

- ▶ I. The Bible affirms that there is no other foundation for eternal life other than Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 3:11

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

- ▶ John 14:6

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

- II. Do you need to make Christ your true and only foundation?

- A. If you do not know His Message, there are many who would be thrilled to study the Lord’s Word with you. To show you the foundation upon which we must build our lives.

- B. If you have studied and you do know what Christ’s message teaches, yet you simply have neglected or procrastinated in obeying His Message; why are you waiting?

Ananias encouraged Paul not to wait any longer but to follow the Lord’s will now!

Acts 22:16

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

- C. As a Christian, possibly you have left the solid foundation of Christ and turned to something different. Let me encourage you to re-establish yourself upon the Lord’s solid rock! Repent and return to Him!

- III. We are here today to serve anyone that desires to stand upon the foundation of Christ, if we can help you to that right now, let it be known as we stand and as we sing!