

Sermon Notes

Reflections

7-25-10



Laying a Firm
Foundation

¹¹ For no other foundation can
anyone lay than that which is
laid, which is Jesus Christ
(1Corinthians 3:11 NKJ)



Reflections

Over the past few months we have watched as our new addition progresses toward completion. We have seen the various parts of the structure take shape and wait with anticipation for the day that we dedicate it to the Lord's service. Looking back, however, none of what is now seen would be possible without the laying of a solid foundation. For any structure to become a useful edifice it must have a properly planned and executed foundation put in place from which the rest of the building can be constructed. Jesus also used the concept of a solid foundation in His teaching on being obedient to His Word when He said: ***"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say? ⁴⁷ 'Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ 'He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. ⁴⁹ 'But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.' (Luke 6:46-49 NKJ)***

Paul also addresses the concept of building on a solid foundation when he addresses the manner in which a person's life is conducted in his letter to the Corinthians. ***According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. (1Corinthians 3:10-13 NKJ)*** In life, as in buildings, a carefully laid foundation is essential to finding our way through life's ups and downs. Without the foundation of a world-view that recognizes God as creator, redeemer, and returning King, all else becomes futility. Solomon writes in Ecclesiastes that all pursuits that are self-indulgent result in life being futile, without purpose and without value. He finally reaches an important understanding when he declares... ***¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 NKJ)***

The Bible challenges us as parents and grandparents to be certain that we lay a strong foundation of faith in our own lives in order to teach our children and grandchildren to walk in relationship with God, in Christ, and to learn to be obedient to His Word. Let's examine how we can lay such a foundation. It has been said that one cannot teach effectively what one has not experienced, so to teach from the experiences of others is not as powerful as teaching from personal experience. With this idea in mind we can conclude that just sending our kids to church and Sunday school will not have near the impact on their lives as the teaching given faithfully in the home, from parents who have lived the relationship being referenced in the teachings.

When Joshua led the Israelites through the Jordan he gave a command that might have seemed strange at first, but became clear as he explained the purpose for such an order. ***Joshua said to them: "Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, ⁶ "that this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' ⁷ "Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. (Joshua 4:5-7a)*** He had given them a testimonial reference that would help their children understand who God is and what He had done for His people. They had actually walked through the Jordan so they would then be able to share from personal experience and their children would be able to reference the reality of God's deliverance because they were given that foundation from those who had walked the path before them. Those whose word was trustworthy had given them the testimony.

Is your life being built on the foundation of Jesus, or are you laying a humanistic foundation that will not stand before the storms of life? Are you comforted by His promise to never leave or forsake you or do you feel all alone during times of trial? When God judges us, the only source of eternal life is Jesus. If our life is built on anything else it will be consumed by His righteous judgement. If this is the condition of your life it can be corrected quite simply by accepting Jesus' offer of salvation in Him. The beauty of His redemption is that He makes us a new creation. He gives us not only eternal life but life abundant as well. We can walk knowing that He is with us, His Spirit is within us, and that we can walk in obedience and confidence in our eternal life with God in Christ. Now that's some foundation! **Pastor Doug**