

07/10/05 – “FOUNDATIONS”

Everything we have is based on a foundation – *“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”* – Psalm 11:3

The word foundation is the basis or groundwork on which something stands...a proper foundation determines a proper future

“I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.” Is. 28:16

A cornerstone lies at the corner of two walls...it unites at the foundation of a building and is its most basic element

Essential to spiritual foundation is our relationship to Jesus Christ...ministry, family and vocation emerge from our foundation in Christ

“...for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.” – Ephesians 2:18-22

We are the building, living stones being built into a spiritual house

God tabernacles in us...not in a temple made with hands but through the Holy Spirit dwells in each believer – Amazing!

When you committed your life to Jesus Christ, you were adopted into His family, no longer a stranger to God...now part of the Body of Christ

Our foundation starts with Jesus – the Cornerstone and Rock of our salvation – Future growth and maturity is determined by our foundation

Tony Evan tells a story about spider cracks in the wall of his home...after much frustration, the problem was not in the walls but in the foundation

We can spend a great deal of time “patching spider cracks” to solve issues...a foundation resting on Christ and His Word is the key to stability

Examine your foundation...is it faulty, cracked or built on something other than Christ and His commandments?

A foundation properly laid prepares us for the worst scenario...the storms and the unforeseen tribulations of life and circumstance

What foundation did the apostles and prophets lay? - no other foundation to be laid except Christ Jesus and His Word

Hebrews 6 tells us our foundation is repentance from dead works, faith towards God, water baptism, receiving the Holy Spirit, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment – Are they part of your foundation and understanding? Is anything missing?

Water baptism is a symbol of entering into the New Covenant...identifying ourselves with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ

Receive the Holy Spirit...don’t be afraid of the Holy Spirit – If you want Jesus you want the Holy Spirit – Jesus sent the Holy Spirit

If you’ve received the Holy Spirit be careful not to quench or marginalize the Holy Spirit which results in spiritual atrophy

Christianity can become intellectual, abstract and academic - The Holy Spirit illuminates the Word of God to come alive in our faith and practice

Foundations Will be Tested

“Therefore every one who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And every one who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall.” – Matthew 7:24-27

Every man’s work will be tested - Build with the right ingredients, beginning with Jesus, His Word and the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:38

He brings us through every storm and is forever faithful - The Lord will help you! **He is our Rock and Shield!**