

FOUNDATIONS

INTRO

A foundation is something that is built upon; something that supports what is built; something that determines what can be built. Nothing is built without a foundation. Jesus is building His Church and anything built must start with a solid foundation.

I. Foundations Found In Scripture

A. Jesus is the foundation - 1 Cor. 3:11

The Church is built on this foundation - Jesus the Rock.

1. He is the spiritual Rock (1 Cor.10:4).
2. He is the anointed stone in the vision of Jacob's ladder (Gen. 28:11-14).
3. He is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel - Joseph (Gen. 49:24).
4. He is the smitten rock that water came out of (Ex. 17:6).
5. He is the rock of your salvation (Ps. 18:46,47).
6. He is the rock that becomes the stone that crushes the kingdoms of the world (Dan. 2).
7. He is the stone of stumbling and rock of offense (1 Pe. 2:8).

B. Hearing and doing the sayings of Jesus - Lk. 6:46-49

1. Foundation on a rock - your life, health, finances, family, business
2. Knowing something is not the same as doing it
 - a. it is one thing to know about tithing - it is another to be a tither
 - b. it is one thing to know about assembling - it is another to show up
 - c. it is one thing to know you have gifts in you - it is another to function / work
3. The Church is in the "I heard that stage" not the "hearing stage"
 - a. we get too familiar - don't pay attention - make mistakes

C. Doctrines of Christ are foundations - Heb. 6:1

1. If the foundational doctrines aren't properly laid, then God, as the building inspector, cannot give the permit to go on into perfection, or the completion of the building.
2. Many seek to build a Christian life without these foundational doctrines - a N.T. Church.
3. Without spiritual foundations we cannot endure storms and we cannot go on to maturity.
4. A lot of sinning would stop if these foundations were laid.

D. Apostles / Prophets are foundations - Eph. 2:20-22

1. Peter reminds us (2 Pe. 3:1,2) to remember the words spoken before of the Holy Prophets (O.T. prophets) and the commandments of the apostles (N.T. apostles) of the Lord Jesus.
2. John's vision of the city of God - saw 12 foundations and the name of the 12 foundations were the 12 apostles of the lamb (Rev. 21:14,19).
3. Early believers continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (Ac. 2:42).
4. The Church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.
5. The revelation of the Church is given to the apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:5).
6. O.T. prophets prophesied and N.T. apostles saw the fulfillment.
7. Universal Church and local church.

E. Becoming a living stone - a disciple - 1 Ki. 5:17

1. The first model of a church we see is a Discipleship Church.
2. The Church and a church cannot be built without disciples.
3. The multitudes can never be touched by God without disciples.
4. Many converts will never fit in because they will not be discipled.
5. Discipleship - stones cut laying the foundation (1 Pe.2:5, 9).
6. Discipleship is about formation not information.
7. O.T. - physical stone worked on externally. N.T. - spiritual stone worked on internally
8. God has set spiritual stone masons in the Church to shape us.
 - a. there are many stones who resist this 'fitting work' or discipling work and want to be individual stones alone and find no setting or placement.
9. God's plan is for us to fit in - allow Him to cut the rough edges off so we can be placed in what He has designed for us.
 - a. submit to change
 - b. be willing to change
 - c. learn to fit in with other stones