

# A Firm Foundation for Publication

## Sermon: The Foundation of Our Faith Part 1

Scripture Text: Matthew 7:24–27

Topic: A Firm Foundation

01/14/2018

**“To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.”**

— Thomas Aquinas

We as Christian **must** know what we believe and why we believe it.

There are 100's of different religions beliefs in the world what makes our beliefs righter than theirs.

Many other “Christian” believed so strongly that they were willing to be tortured, beaten, and martyred for their beliefs. But that alone does not separate Christians from believers in other faiths.

It is not that Christianity is the oldest religion

It is not because Christianity is the largest religion, which it is.

Top 6 largest religions in the world

1. Christianity 2.3 Billion
2. Islam 1.6 Billion
3. Hinduism 1 Billion
4. Buddhism 400 Million
5. Sikhism 30 Million
6. Judaism 20 Million

Why do I believe what I believe in light of all the other religion/faiths?

*Romans 10:17 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.***

Is that reason enough? Most all religions have a “Holy Book”. I listed just a few:

1. Islam - The Holy Quran.
2. Hinduism – Shreemad, Bhagavad Gita, Upanishads and Veda.
3. Buddhism - Tripitakas.
4. Sikhism - Guru Granth Sahib.
5. Judaism - Old Testament, Torah and the Talmud.
6. Mormons Book of Mormon

Our church motto is “The Word of God is the **foundation** for our faith and practice”.

Other religions could say the same about their holy book. The question becomes, “how good (firm) your foundation is”.

Remember the story about the men building a house, one on a foundation of sand and the other on a rock foundation. (**Matthew 7:24–27**). This is a metaphoric story with applications toward our faith.

The house in this application represents our faith, built on the foundation of the Word of God (the gospel and scriptures).

**Foundations:**

- Sand - sand is unstable, moved by wind, rain and flood. Anything built upon it is prone to fall.
- Rock – rock is solid,) hard to move and can withstand the elements.

**Outside threats:**

- Rain, rising streams and wind represent different doctrine (teachings). They continue to attack our faith

A rock foundation will help us to stand.

- *Ephesians 4:14 (NKJV) <sup>14</sup> that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with **every wind of doctrine**, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,*
- Jesus referred to a rock foundation (*that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God*) upon which He will build His church and not even the gates of hell will prevail against it.  
*Matthew 16:18 (NKJV) <sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

END

## Sermon: The Foundation of Our Faith Part 2

Topic: The Bible

Scripture Text: Romans 10:13–17

01/21/2018

**“Talk unbelief, and you will have unbelief; but talk faith, and you will have faith. According to the seed sown will be the harvest.”**

**Ellen G. White**

Key words and definition we will use in our series are:

**Foundation** – 1. the basis or groundwork of anything:

Example: Rock, cement, myths, government type even history.

For us it is “The Word of God” (for God cannot lie, *Titus 1:2*)

**Religion** - a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices

**Religious** - relating to or manifesting faithful devotion to an acknowledged ultimate reality or deity. Acknowledged does not mean true (example: some people acknowledge the theory of evolution)

Example of a religion: Buddhism, Christianity, Hindu, Islam, Judaism

**Denomination** - a religious group or organization whose congregations are united in their adherence to its beliefs and practices, usually including many local churches.

Examples: Baptist, Catholic, Protestant, Mormon, Jehovah Witness, Sikh and many, many others.

**Faith (Our belief)** - A strong belief (faith) in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual conviction rather than proof. Confidence or trust in a person or thing: For us the person is God, Jesus Christ and the thing is the words of God and Christ.

Synonyms: acceptance, belief, confidence, conviction, hope

**Doctrine** - something that is taught as a principle or position or the body of principles in a branch of knowledge or system of belief

I think “faith” is misused and confusing when someone says they are of the Christian faith or of the Jewish faith. More correctly they are member of the Christian religion or of the Jewish religion.

We don't just get faith and then we have all we need. Faith has to constantly keep growing because it will constantly continue to be tested.

*2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NKJV)* <sup>3</sup> *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,*

*James 1:3–4 (NKJV)* <sup>3</sup> *knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.* <sup>4</sup> *But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

What makes our “Book”, the Bible, so right and special?

### 1. The Bible Contains writing inspired by God (*2 Timothy 3:16*)

“Inspired by God does not mean dictated by God”

In Revelation John is told to write what he sees. What he wrote was not dictated to him.

(*Revelation 1:19*).

2. **The Holy Bible was written by** over 40 men under the inspiration of God.  
Unlike the Quran and the Book of Mormon which claim to be dictated to just one man.
3. **The Bible was written over a 1600 period of history.**  
Unlike the other book, the writings took place in one person's lifetime.
4. **The Bible has proven to be historically accurate**
5. **The "Holy Bible" contains books with verifiable historical facts.**  
The Bible is the only ancient, well-organized and authentic framework in which to fit *all* the facts of history.
6. **The Bible has proven to be archaeologically accurate**  
It has been subjected to the minutest scientific textual analysis possible to humanity and has been proven to be authentic in every way.
7. **The Bible has survived many hazards**  
it has been banned and burned, and those who would translate it have been oppressed and killed.

He has preserved His words of teachings, encouragement, advisement, warnings and guidance in the living written Word.

He even allows His words to live within us to have always.

*1 John 2:14 (NIV84) <sup>14</sup> ... I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, ...*

END

**Sermon: A Firm Foundation Pt 3**  
**Topic: The “Word of God”**  
**Scripture Text: Revelation 19:11–13**  
**01/28/2018**

**“The word of God will either drive you or draw you.”**

Our religion here at NEHCC is Christian (followers of Christ). We believe in its teachings and doctrines, which are built on the (**foundation**) “Word of God” which guides our lives, our worship and our practice.

The foundation on which we should build our faith is the Word of God, Jesus.

- Jesus who is The Christ, The Son of God, is the foundation on which He will build His church (*Matthew 16:18*)
- Jesus is the foundation our eternal salvation life is based upon  
*Romans 10:13 For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”*
- Jesus is the foundation our eternal life is based upon (*John 3:16*)
- Jesus is the Word of God.  
*Revelation 19:13 (NKJV) <sup>13</sup> He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.*
- Jesus is everything we need. He is THE WORD OF GOD.

In these last days God has spoken to us by His Son.

*Hebrews 1:1–2 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son...***

How does a person speak? They do so mainly through words either audible, written or in the Spirit or even in a dream. But all are in words.

How is Jesus the Word of God.

John 1:1–2 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.

The **Word** is Jesus

Let’s go back to the beginning

*Genesis 1:1 (NKJV) <sup>1</sup> **In the beginning** God created the heavens and the earth.  
How did God do it.*

*Genesis 1:3 (NKJV) <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.  
The phrase **“then God Said”** is repeated eight (8) times in the Genesis passage.  
You say something by using word. So, by God’s **word** all things were created.*

Jesus is the Word of God and created all things

*Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> **For by Him (Jesus) 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.*

In the New Testament consisting of the Gospel are written the “words” of Jesus.  
*Hebrews 1:2, <sup>2</sup> has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son...***

Just as John was inspired by Jesus to write what he saw, so were the other writers “inspired by God, through Jesus.

Here is an example: Paul, under the inspiration writes a command from the Lord. Proving that the word in this passage were inspired by Jesus.

*1 Corinthians 7:10 (NKJV) <sup>10</sup> Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband.*

#### **More proof that Jesus is the “Word of God”**

*Revelation 19:11–13 (NKJV) <sup>11</sup> Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The “Word of God”.*

#### **Proof again that Jesus is the Word of God**

*Revelation 1:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.  
Now compare that verse with the following:*

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the “Word of God” is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

By the “Word of God”, (Jesus) there was creation then also by the “Word of God”, (Jesus) there will be destruction.

*Revelation 19:20–21 (NKJV) ... <sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse.... (Isaiah 11:4, Revelation 19:15)*

Now we know that Jesus, is the “Word of God”. We can more confidently say; **“The Word of God (Jesus) Is The Foundation Of Our Faith And Our Practice.”**

End

## RESOURCE

### **Top 10 Largest Religions In The World**

<http://www.worldstopmost.com/2018/largest-religions-world-fastest-growing/>

### **Archaeology Proves Bible History Accurate**

<https://www.thetrumpet.com/1912-archaeology-proves-bible-history-accurate>

### **Historical Accuracy**

<http://www.icr.org/biblical-record>

### **The Bible—A Remarkable Story of Survival**

<https://www.jw.org/en/publications/magazines/wp20091101/bible-story-of-survival/>