

## **UNMASKING BIBLE TRUTHS School**

### **LESSON 1 FOUNDATIONS and BUILDERS**

#### **Student Outline**

Foundations in life are very important.

**[foundation]** Greek: (GSN-2310) The *substructure* which determines the entire direction (destination) of all that follows; the foundation-plan, upon which the entire super-structure is built; (figuratively) the *beginning (founding)* that purposefully designs all that follows. What and who you have your life founded on will determine the success of your life here and your eternal destiny. Like an architect, the builder of a building always lays the foundation first. The foundation is the support base for the rest of the building. If it is not constructed properly the building will eventually fall. Spiritually it is the *beginning (founding)* that purposefully designs all that follows. If your foundation is not right and true, all that follows will not be right and true. Furthermore, whatever doctrines you believe will determine how you view things in the Christian life. You will live and practice the doctrines you believe. And contrary to popular belief, doctrine is of eternal importance.

**1 Timothy 4:16** Watch your life and **doctrine closely**. Persevere in them, because **if you do**, you will **save both yourself and your hearers**.

For example; Romans is first in order of the epistles, both **doctrinally** and in canonical order, and rightly so, for it contains the fundamentals of Christian education. Until its lessons are learned we are ignorant of true Christian principles. It is the very **foundation of church teaching**, and if we are wrong in understanding here we shall be wrong elsewhere. The great theme is the revelation of God's wrath against sin, and the righteousness through faith as the grounds of justification. Romans makes the whole world guilty before God and in need of salvation through Jesus Christ.

**Psalms 11:3** If the **foundations** are destroyed, What can the **righteous do?** This Psalm rebukes those who counsel flight or compromises when biblical principles are at stake. Faithful believers will take refuge in the Lord (v.1) and remain committed to righteousness and continue being faithful even if the moral and spiritual "foundations are being destroyed" in both society and the church. **So let us make sure our lives are laid on the bedrock of the firm foundation!**

#### **FIRM FOUNDATION OF GOD**

**2 Timothy 2:19** Nevertheless, the **firm foundation of God** stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "**Everyone** who names the name of the Lord **is to abstain from wickedness**."

Here it is stated that God's truth is like a sure foundation regardless of how many make shipwreck of their faith (**1Tim.1:18-18**). People are to build upon this foundation and be judged as to how they build. Despite the fact that many stray from the truth (**Matthew 24:11**) and false teachers may make inroads into the church (**1 Timothy 2:14-18**), God's purpose for His faithful followers cannot be overturned. "the firm **foundation** of God", the true church, cannot be destroyed. On this foundation two truths are inscribed, referring to those who really belong to Christ's church.

(1) God unerringly knows those who remain true to His original Gospel and those who compromise its truths (**Genesis 18:19; Exodus 33:12,17; Numbers 16:5; 1Corinthians 8:1-3**, and (2) those who really belong to the Lord turn away from wickedness and false teaching (**1 Timothy 6:3-5,11**) The world is full of professing Christians who "name the name of the Lord" but have not abstained from wickedness! If that describes you, you must comeback to God's firm foundation and be truly saved!

#### **JESUS CHRIST THE ONLY FOUNDATION**

**1Corinthians 3:10-11** According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise **master builder** I laid a **foundation**, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a **foundation** other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**Masterbuilder** - architect. The plan belonged to God, but the execution of the plan was entrusted to Paul. **But each man must be careful how he builds on it**. Let every man be careful to **preach the same doctrines** that I have preached and ask **no practice contrary to them**. There are many preachers preaching doctrines that are contrary to the New Testament! They are junk doctrines that have no substance in discipleship and have nothing to do with living in holiness!

**Acts 17:11** "Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they **received** the message with great eagerness and **examined** the Scriptures **every day** to see

if what Paul said was true." Everything that comes out of a preachers or teachers mouth must be tested by the Word of God in context. Be very careful what you listening to. Jesus said to be careful what you hear and how you hear...Paul laid the foundation of Jesus Christ and sound doctrine and Jesus Christ is the builder of His church and he said "upon this Rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"

### **THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS**

**Ephesians 2:19-21** "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God**, 20 built on the **foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the **whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple** in the Lord." The household of God is built of the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

[**foundation**] foundation on which to build (**Matthew 13:35**). As we've seen, Jesus Christ is the true foundation (**1 Corinthians 3:11**). The original apostles and prophets have also been made part of the foundation of Christianity. As apostles of today, we continue to lay the true foundation of Christianity. Others are built into the structure of the church. All of them are the temple of God and a habitation of God through the Holy Spirit. "**Being joined together**" harmoniously fitted together. "**grows into a holy temple** in the Lord" Continually increasing by new converts. And the church is the pillar and **foundation** of the truth!

### **THE CHURCH THE PILLAR AND FOUNDATION OF THE TRUTH**

**1 Timothy 3:15** "But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in **God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.**" The pillar and foundation of truth, the upholder of the great truth of the mystery of godliness (**1 Timothy 3:15-16**). Another great truth upheld is the headship of God (**1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 1:10**). Lucifer did not abide in this truth (**John 8:44; Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:11-17**). He is now denying it (**1 John 2:18-23**). The church is now demonstrating it (**Ephesians 3:10; 4:11-16; 5:24; Hebrews 13:7,17; 1 Peter 5:1-6**).

### **NO FIRM ROOT**

**Luke 8:13** Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.

This illustrates those who hear the Word of God and gladly receive it, but have no depth of consecration, no root to endure, no stability to stand persecution, trial, and misunderstanding which are sure to come (**Mk. 4:16-17; Mt. 13:20-21**). This is a plain reference to backsliding (**Lk. 8:13; Jn. 15:1-6; Rom. 8:12-13; Gal. 1:6-8; 5:4,19-21; 6:7-8; 2Cor. 11:3-4; 1Th. 3:8; 1Tim. 5:11-15; 2Tim. 2:12; Jas. 5:19-20; 1Jn. 3:8; Heb. 3:6,12-14; 6:4-12; 10:26-29; 12:15; 2Pet. 2:20-22; Rev. 3:5; 22:18-19**). Christ explicitly affirms the possibility of a person believing (i.e., making a sincere beginning in the life of faith), but subsequently falling away because of a failure to resist temptation. Jesus teaches that it is essential that those who hear the Word "hold firmly" to it and "continue in" it. (**John 8:51; 1 Corinthians 15:2; Colossians 1:21-23; 1 John 2:24-25; John 8:31; John 15:1-6**)

**John 8:31** "Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you continue in my word (or hold to My teaching), you really are my disciples."

There are 1,582 "if's" in the Bible and all of them express a condition if one of them does. The condition to be met if these new believers were to remain as true disciples and have freedom from sin was: "continue in My Word" (**John 8:31-32**); for if any man "commits sin" he "is the servant of sin" (**John 8:34**).

**1 Corinthians 15:1-2** "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the **gospel I preached** to you, which you **received**, in which you **stand**, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are **being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—**unless you believed in vain**.

### **BUILDERS and FOUNDATIONS**

**Luke 6:46-48** "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?<sup>47</sup> Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup> he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and **laid a foundation** on the rock; and **when** a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and **could not shake it**, because it had been well built. <sup>49</sup> But the one who has heard and has not acted *accordingly*, is like a man who built a house on the ground **without any foundation**; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

**1 House** – spiritual life **2 Rock** – the Word of Christ **3 Foundation** – hearing and doing His Word

**"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"**

The world is full of professing Christians Jesus is addressing this question too. Many call Him Lord but do not obey His Word! Tempests, and storms of affliction, persecution and temptation beat around the soul. Suddenly, when we think we are in safety, the heavens may be overcast; the storm may lower; and calamity beats upon us. In a moment, health, friends, comforts, may be gone. How desirable then to be possessed of something that the tempest cannot reach! Such is an interest in Christ; attention to his words; reliance on his promises; confidence in his protection; and a hope of heaven through his blood. Earthly calamities do not reach these; and all the storms and tempests of life may simply beat harmlessly around us.

There is another point in this comparison. The house built on the sand is beat upon by the floods and rains; its foundation gradually is worn away; it falls, and is borne down the stream, and is destroyed. So falls the slumber. The floods are wearing away his sandy foundation; and soon one tremendous storm shall beat upon him, and he and his hopes shall fall, for ever fall. Out of Christ, perhaps having heard His words from very childhood; perhaps having taught them to others in the Sunday-school; perhaps having been the means of laying the foundation on which others shall build for heaven, he has laid for himself no foundation; and soon an eternal tempest shall beat around his naked soul. How great will be that fall! What will be his emotions when sinking for ever in the flood, and destined for ever to live and writhe in the peltings of that ceaseless storm that shall beat when "God shall rain snares, fire, and a horrible tempest" upon the wicked!

**"and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it"**

**2 Peter 1:10** Therefore, brothers, **be all the more diligent to confirm** your calling and election, for **if** you practice these qualities **you will never fall**. If your calling and election was absolutely sure beyond any sin, why would the apostle say to "**be all the more diligent to confirm** your calling and election?" Why would he affirm this with "for **if** you practice these qualities **you will never fall**?" if there was not a chance one could fall? Have you laid a foundation on the Rock? Are you hearing and doing the words of Christ?

**Jude 1:21 keep yourselves in** the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. **v.24** Now to him who is able to **keep you from** stumbling (falling) and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,

As we keep ourselves in the love of God, He will keep us from falling! It is NOT all on God to keep us! Does true grace say "keep yourself"? This is an Old Testament and a New Testament principle.

**John 16:1** "I have **said all these things** to you to **keep you from falling away**."

**Dueteronomy 4:9** Only take heed to yourself and

**keep your soul carefully**, lest you **forget** the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they **depart** from your heart all the days of your life. But teach them to your sons, and your sons' sons.

**Dueteronomy 23:9** When the army goes forth against your enemies, then **keep yourself from every** wicked thing.

**Proverbs 4:23** **Keep your heart with all diligence**; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

**1 Timothy 5:22** Do not lay hands quickly on anyone, neither be partaker of *the* sins of others.

**Keep yourself pure**.

**James 1:27** Pure religion and undefiled before God and *the* Father *is* this, to visit orphans and widows in their afflictions, and to **keep oneself unspotted** from the world.

**I John 5:18** We know that **whoever is born** of God **does not sin**; but he who has been born of God **keeps himself**, and the wicked one does not touch him.

**1Jn. 5:21** Little children, **keep yourselves** from idols.

### **LAYING A FOUNDATION AND NOT ABLE TO FINISH**

#### **Counting the Cost of Following Christ**

**Luke 14:25-30** Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate (love less) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when he has **laid a foundation** and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'...

You see hear, you can even lay a foundation and not be able to finish! The reason is, they have not counted the cost to see if they can finish even after laying a foundation! Jesus is emphasizing if anyone "does not hate (love less) his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. <sup>27</sup> Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple." Many start out well, but do not finish!

**(Matthew 10:34-39; 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23)**

The importance of building our hopes of heaven on a firm foundation, **Matthew 7:24-27**.

No other can any man lay than that which is laid, which is Christ, **1 Corinthians 3:11**.

He is the tried Corner Stone, **1 Peter 2:6, Ephesians 2:20**.

On an edifice raised on that foundation, the storms of persecution and calamity will beat in vain. Hopes thus reared sustain every adversity; are unshaken by the terrors of death; and secure us from the tempests of wrath that shall beat upon the guilty. How awful, in the day of judgment, will it be to have been deceived! What a horrible tragedy to come to the end of life to stand at the judgement bar of God, only to find out that what you believed was absolutely true is NOT true at all! How dreadful the shock to find then the house built on the sand! How dreadful the emotions, to see our hopes totter on the brink of ruin; to see sand after sand washed away, and the dwelling reel over the heaving deep, and fall into the abyss, to rise no more! Ruin, awful and eternal ruin, awaits those who thus deceive themselves, and trust to a name to live, while they are dead.



**Priceless Soul Well of Revival Ministry**

For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Mark 8:36

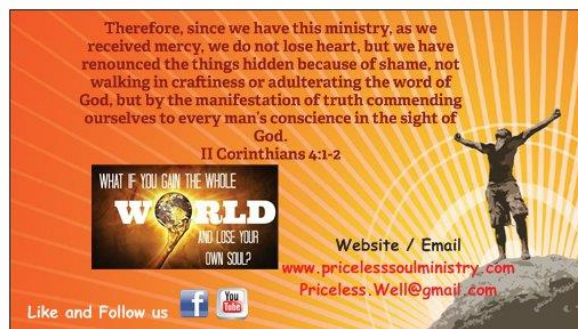
Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation. Isaiah 12:3

**Salvation For AFRICA**

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Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. II Corinthians 4:1-2

**WHAT IF YOU GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSE YOUR OWN SOUL?**

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