

INTRODUCTION

The basic doctrines of the Christian faith are the subject of this course. Doctrines are a collection of teachings on a certain subject. The basic doctrines of the Christian faith are the teachings of Jesus Christ recorded in the Bible.

These doctrines are listed in the Bible in the book of Hebrews:

Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Of the doctrine of baptisms and of laying on of hands, and of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

And this will we do if God permit. (Hebrews 6:1-3)

Two spiritual objectives are set forth in this verse:

The first objective is that of building your spiritual life on the right foundation. This foundation is the doctrine of Jesus Christ.

The second objective is to go on to perfection. Perfection means spiritual maturity.

There are two reasons for the failure to live a victorious Christian life.

The first reason is that some who are trying to live like Christians have never been born again. They do not understand the basic doctrines of Jesus Christ. Because of this lack of understanding, they have failed to make a proper response to God.

The second reason for failure is not going on to spiritual maturity.

The first purpose of this course is to present the basic doctrines of the Christian faith necessary for a proper spiritual foundation.

The six foundational doctrines of Hebrews 6:1-3 will be discussed:

- Repentance from dead works
- Faith toward God
- Doctrine of baptisms
- Laying on of hands
- Resurrection of the dead
- Eternal judgment

After establishing this foundation, the second purpose of this course is to take you on to perfection [spiritual maturity] ...

"...And this will we do, if God permit..."

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain the six basic doctrines of the Christian faith listed in Hebrews 6:1-3.
- Establish a proper spiritual foundation in your own life.
- Go on to spiritual maturity.

CHAPTER ONE

FOUNDATIONS

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter, you will be able to:

- Write the Key Verse from memory.
- Distinguish between right and wrong spiritual foundations.
- Explain the importance of building on the right spiritual foundation.
- Acknowledge Jesus Christ as the true spiritual foundation.
- List three steps for building a proper spiritual foundation.

KEY VERSES:

Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

And this will we do, if God permit. (Hebrews 6:1-3)

INTRODUCTION

The Bible compares the life of a believer to the construction of a building:

...Ye are God's building... (I Corinthians 3:9)

Each believer is united in Christ with other Christians to form the Church. The Bible also compares the Church to a building:

In whom [Jesus] ye also are builded together [the church united] for an habitation of God through the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:22)

Whenever men erect a building, they must first lay a proper foundation. Since this is a natural principle understood by all people, God used it to teach a great spiritual truth.

A believer must have a proper foundation in order to build a good spiritual house. The foundation must be laid according to the builder's plan. The Bible gives the plan of the master builder, Jesus Christ.

This chapter explains the importance of having a proper spiritual foundation. It also presents basic principles the Bible teaches about this foundation.

THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING

The purpose of your spiritual "building" is to provide a habitation [a dwelling place] for God. His Spirit will dwell in you only when your life is built on the right foundation. Paul asked:

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (I Corinthians 3:16)

Because of this, you are cautioned to build your spiritual life properly:

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 3:10-11)

THE FOUNDATION

The spiritual foundation of which the Word of God speaks:

IS BASED ON GOD'S WORD:

God's word stands firm like a rock [foundation]; nothing can shake it. (II Timothy 2:19, The Living Bible)

IS A GOOD FOUNDATION:

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation. (I Timothy

6:19) IS BASED ON RIGHTEOUSNESS:

The uncompromisingly righteous has an everlasting foundation. (Proverbs 10:25, The Amplified Bible)

IS ETERNAL:

...Laying up for themselves the riches that endure forever, a good foundation for the future... (I Timothy 6:19, The Amplified Bible)

RESTS ON TWO BASIC PRINCIPLES:

But the firm foundation laid by God stands sure and unshaken, bearing this seal and inscription: The Lord knows those who are His and let everyone who names himself by the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it. (II Timothy 2:19, The Amplified Bible)

The two principles upon which the foundation stands are:

1. Redeemed men: The Lord knows those who are His.
2. Living redeemed lives: Let everyone who names himself by the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stands aloof from it.

IS BUILT UPON A ROCK THAT IS IMMOVABLE:

He is like a man which built a house and digged deep and laid the foundation on a rock and when the flood arose and beat vehemently on the house it could not shake it for it was founded on a rock. (Luke 6:48)

THAT ROCK IS JESUS CHRIST:

There is no other rock; I know not any. (Isaiah 44:8, The Amplified Bible)

Jesus Christ is the only foundation for spiritual life:

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 3:11)

JESUS: THE FOUNDATION

God is the one who chose Jesus Christ as the foundation for spiritual life:

...Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation... (Isaiah 28:16)

The foundation of spiritual life is not a man-made creed, a denomination, or a religious ceremony. The foundation is Jesus Christ.

Many professing believers try to build great spiritual structures of Christianity in their lives. They become involved in the program of the church and do many good works. The outward appearance of their spiritual building is good. But before long their spiritual building begins to sink and collapse. They become discouraged, defeated, and fall into sin. This is because they are trying to build on the wrong foundation.

Just as a good foundation is necessary to properly support a building in the natural world, the right spiritual foundation is necessary to support the building of your spiritual life:

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. (I Corinthians 3:11-13)

All so-called "Christian" works will be tested by God. The structure of your spiritual life will be examined to determine if it is built on the proper foundation. The only foundation of spiritual life which will stand is that which is built on Jesus Christ.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOUNDATIONS

Foundations are very important. The writer of Psalms realized this when he asked:

**If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?
(Psalms 11:3)**

In the natural world if the foundation of a building is not properly laid the whole structure can collapse. The same is true in the spiritual world. A wrong foundation will result in spiritual disaster.

The Biblical record of Haggai stresses the importance of proper spiritual foundations. Israel was experiencing poor harvests in the natural world. Haggai told them to examine their ways:

Ye have sown much, and bring in little...Consider your ways...Ye looked for much, and lo it came to little. (Haggai 1:6,7,9)

To correct the problem, Haggai told Israel they must rebuild both in the natural and spiritual worlds.

Rebuilding in the natural world was necessary for Israel because they had delayed building the house of the Lord. They had built their own homes and put their own concerns ahead of God's command to rebuild the temple. But more importantly, the spiritual foundation of their lives was wrong. They had been offering sacrifices [good works] with unholy hands:

...So is this people, and so is this nation before me, says the Lord; and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there on the altar is unclean because they who offer it are themselves unclean. (Haggai 2:14,

The Amplified Version)

A right work offered by unholy hands is not acceptable. The spiritual foundation of their lives was wrong and this is why they were not blessed by God.

In the natural world, Haggai told God's people that the foundation of the Lord's temple must be rebuilt. He said they must also rebuild their spiritual lives on a proper foundation. From the day that Israel started to build on the right foundation God began to bless them:

But now note this: From today, and from this day onward, I will bless you. Notice, I am giving you this promise now before you have even begun to rebuild the Temple structure, and before you have harvested your grain, and before the grapes and figs and pomegranates and olives have produced their next crops: From this day I will bless you. (Haggai 2:18-19, The Living Bible)

From the day you start to build proper spiritual foundations, God will bless you in every area of your life.

Next Lesson: THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS