

Biblical Perspectives from God's Word

Establishing Your Spiritual Foundation

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I. Introductory Remarks.

This lesson is basically an introduction to this class on "Biblical Perspectives from God's Word." It recognizes the fact that you are in the process of building a Biblical foundation with a desire to strengthen it and to go on to maturity by building the spiritual house that God has purposed for in your lives.

1 Peter 2:1-5 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, ²as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. ⁴Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵you also, as living stones, are being built up a **spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- **The purpose of this class** will be to focus on those lessons that will aid you in going onto maturity and building the **spiritual house** that God has purposed in your lives.

Hebrews 6:1-4 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ²of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³**And this we will do if God permits.**

- **It's important to understand that the enemy is intent on destroying the foundation that has been laid in our lives.** It is as we continue to build on and reinforce the existing foundation that we protect ourselves from the enemy's devices.

Psalms 11:2-4 For look! The wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow on the string, that they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. ³If the **foundations** are destroyed, what can the righteous do? ⁴The LORD is in His holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

II. Three Areas of Focus.

In this class we will focus on three areas that constitute a strong Biblical foundation that propels us toward maturity; 1) doctrine, 2) character and 3) vision, purpose & destiny.

1. Doctrine.

Even though doctrine is not necessarily the focus of this church, this church has good doctrine that is built into the foundation of all that we do as a church. As New Testament Christians we don't necessarily go around spouting off all of our wonderful doctrines, but they are truths that are built into the very core of who we are in Christ that serve to strengthen our foundation in Christ. You might say that good doctrine produces good Christians and bad doctrine produces bad Christians.

- **The early disciples were very effective in the spreading of the gospel and fulfilling God's purpose** for their lives and their generation because they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine.

Acts 2:42 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

- **Scripture** and **Doctrine** are essential for making us complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- **Paul exhorted Timothy to give attention to reading, exhortation and doctrine.**

1 Timothy 4:13 *Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

1 Timothy 4:16 *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

- **Solid teaching** helps us not to be deceived and led around by every wind of doctrine.

Ephesians 4:14 *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,*

2 Timothy 4:2-4 *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

2. Character Development.

Another area of focus will be on character development. Character development is an essential part of our foundation and all that God is doing in our lives. Many people have **suffered shipwreck** in their lives as Christians because this area didn't get the attention that it needed.

1 Timothy 1:18-20 *This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered **shipwreck**, ²⁰of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

- **The fruit of the Spirit and character development are the **essence** of what we are to produce as Christians.**

2 Corinthians 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

2 Peter 1:5-11 *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if*

you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:9-11 *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹being filled with the **fruits** of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

Matthew 3:8 *"Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,*

Matthew 3:10 *"And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

3. Vision, Purpose & Destiny.

The third area of focus will be on vision, purpose and destiny. This is an important area that is very necessary in what God is desiring to do in our lives. He has given each one of us a destiny to fulfill and unless we know how to walk in this area we will never complete the building process God has begun in each of our lives.

- We have all been **saved** and **called** according to God's purpose.

2 Timothy 1:8-9 *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹who has saved us and called us with a **holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began....*

- **Vision keeps us focused and motivated on all that God is doing in our lives.**

Proverbs 29:18 *Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.*

III. Concluding Remarks.

As you seek to build and strengthen the spiritual foundation that God is establishing your life it will keep you from succumbing to the attacks of the enemy.

Psalms 11:2-3 *For look! The wicked bend their bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. ³ **If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?***

All of the lessons in this class will focus on the above three areas that were just discussed with the goal of building the foundation that God desires in each one of your lives.