

## 14. The Book of Psalms 11:3

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### ***If The Foundations Are Destroyed-Part 2***

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier  
(8-10-25)

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Find this week's sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

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Last week we started looking at Psalm 11 where we eventually camped on verse 3—

#### **Psalm 11:3 (NKJV)**

**<sup>3</sup> If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?**

The foundation is the most important part of a building—if the foundation is faulty the structure built upon it is doomed to fail. We discussed what applies to construction applies allegorically to other things in life.

Civilizations have to be built on a strong foundation if they are going to survive and thrive and ultimately be blessed.

God has created three institutions that a civilized, God-ordained society must be built upon:

1. *Government*; 2. *The Church*; and 3. *The Family*

#### **1. Government**

There is only one Foundation that human government must be built upon if it is going to succeed and be blessed—and that foundation is God and His Word.

On July 4, 1776, in the City of Philadelphia, there was signed one of America's most famous documents: the Declaration of Independence, which laid the foundation for a nation that was destined to be one of the greatest nations this world would ever see.

People often forget that, in declaring independence from an earthly power, like Great Britain, our forefathers made an unashamed declaration of dependence upon Almighty God.

The closing words of this document solemnly declare: *"With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence (Almighty God), we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."*

- James Madison, the chief architect of the Constitution said, *"We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions...upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God."*
- Patrick Henry, who said, *"Give me liberty or give me death,"* said a lot of other things—such as: *"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions (plural) but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."*

## 2. The Church

### **Ephesians 2:20–22 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

This temple (the Church) is built on the *'foundation'* of the apostles and prophets—which as we said last week was the revelation that God gave to them (NT doctrine) that the Church was to be built upon.

### **Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup>...**Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone,**

So, after Paul tells us that God gave to the apostles and prophets the doctrine that became the foundation the Church was to be built upon—he quickly adds that Jesus Himself is the chief cornerstone.

The cornerstone was the major structural part of ancient buildings—it had to be strong enough to support what was built on it, and it had to be precisely laid because every other part of the structure was lined up with it. If the cornerstone was weak and/or crooked—every other part of the structure would be off kilter and prone to fail.

We know that Jesus is strong enough for us to build our lives upon Him because, He is God—which is why the Christian Church sings, *"On Christ the solid Rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand."* But also, the Church's doctrinal foundation must be aligned with Jesus and His Word or else it will be doomed to fail.

This goes for any local church that calls itself a Christian church (woke churches).

## 3. The Family

In the Bible, God calls a family—"a house."

### **2 Samuel 3:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David. But David grew stronger and stronger, and the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

Parents, think of building your family like you're building a house—which means the first thing you must do is lay a good strong foundation.

➔ **Listen for story about Texas subdivision.**

Garbage = the values of the world as opposed to the foundation of Jesus Christ—

### **1 Corinthians 3:10–11 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Building your life and family on the foundation of Jesus and His Word is not just coming to church and hearing the Word but also obeying the Word (James 1:22).

In Matthew 7 Jesus said that everyone who hears His Word and obeys is like a wise man who built his house on the rock; and everyone who hears His word and doesn't obey is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand...

Once the foundation is laid—the 'house' is built:

**Proverbs 9:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;

Solomon doesn't tell us what these '*seven pillars*' are that support a house (family).

We could list many things as indispensable supports that hold up a family and make it strong—but I just want to keep this simple and practical for our purposes this morning. In so doing, I'd like to apply this idea of building a family (a house) by first of all talking about the role of parents in raising children.

In that regard, I'd like to use something Christian author and family counselor Dr. Howard Hendricks came up with.

Dr. Hendricks has summarized the principles (or pillars) for godly parenting with his *Seven Pointers for Parents*:

**1. Provide an atmosphere in the home that builds warm, close, personal relationships.**

Make sure the home is a place of belonging and acceptance—which means spending time with your children, so that they know you and you know them.

**2. Be a good example to your children.**

Your faith and values will be more likely *caught* by your kids than *taught* to your kids.

Don't be afraid to admit mistakes, kids need to see that you are human, and big enough to accept grace and forgiveness. Then they will grow up into adults who can forgive and accept forgiveness as well.

**3. Allow gradual emancipation from the apron strings of parental authority.**

Begin early to feed them responsibility, a little at a time. Evaluate the results and adjust their freedom according to their ability to handle it.

**4. When children need guidance and counsel, provide a relaxed, informal setting.**

Spend time building a warm relationship with your child so that he or she will be more willing to accept your counsel. And remember, don't seek to be a 'friend' to your children but a loving parental authority figure.

**5. Set limits.**

Children want and need the security of boundaries and restrictions. But discipline your children only in a context of love.

Your children will not accept your limits unless they know they are loved, and you tell them you love them not only with words, but more importantly with your time, attention, and genuine interest.

**6. Apply the law of natural consequences as they grow up.**

As your children grow in their ability to make decisions, let them decide — but also let them live with the results of their decisions. If we make all their decisions for them, they will lose confidence in their own ability to make decisions.

If we bail them out and shield them from the consequences of their decisions, they will grow up with an irresponsible attitude, expecting never to have to deal with consequences.

In some cases, it's healthy for children to make mistakes and accept the consequences — as long as they are not consequences that cause serious or lifelong harm.

**7. Most importantly, surround your children with a fortress of prayer.**

Trust the Spirit of God to care for them, to cover for your inevitable occasional mistakes, and bring your children to a place of faith and maturity.

**Parenting is hard work, if it's done right**—but no work is more important for your family or for society.

Years ago, two families from the state of New York were studied very carefully—one was the family of Max Jukes, and the other was the family of Jonathan Edwards.

The thing that they discovered from this study was remarkable—that even as God said that in nature things would bring forth after their kind—the same thing seems to hold true for families as well.

*Max Jukes* lived in New York. He did not believe in Christ or in Christian training and he married an unbelieving woman who lacked character like him. He refused to take his children to church, even when they asked to go. He has had 1,026 descendants—300 were sent to prison for an average term of 13 years each—7 of them for murder; 190 were public prostitutes; 680 were admitted alcoholics, bums and petty thieves. His family thus far, has cost the state of N.Y. about 1.5 million dollars. They have made no contribution to society that is of any benefit.

*Jonathan Edwards* (1703-1758); lived in the same state, at the same time as Jukes. He loved the Lord and married a woman of like character and saw that his children were in church every Sunday, as he served the Lord to the best of his ability. He has had 929 descendants—of these, three hundred became clergymen, missionaries, and theological professors; over 100 became college professors; over 100 became attorneys, 30 of them judges; 60 of them became physicians; over 60 became authors of good classic books; 14 became presidents of universities; five were elected to the United States Congress and two to the Senate. One was Vice-President of this nation. His family never cost the state one cent but has contributed immeasurably to the life of plenty in this land today.

Jesus said, “*Wisdom is known by her children*”—in other words, foolish, godless thinking gives birth to foolish and godless living—and foolish and godless living gives birth to foolish and godless children. Conversely, wise and godly thinking gives birth to wise and godly living (a life given over to God and His Word), and wise and godly living gives birth to godly children.

### Proverbs 24:3-4 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; <sup>4</sup>By knowledge [*the knowledge of God and His Word*] the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

Yes, with the riches of character, responsibility, honesty, hard work, morality, integrity—these are greater riches than anything else you can give your children. Of course, as Jesus Christ is the foundation of the family—marriage is the cornerstone of the family (the most important part of the family unit).

### **“If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?”**

(If your walk with Jesus is weak, damaged, destroyed by sin, or non-existent)

One author put well—

*“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (11:3). This has always been the language of cowardly men. By subtle persuasion they were trying to convince David that he was fighting a losing cause...Such arguments as these carry tremendous weight, if God is ruled out of the picture. But this is just where timid men make their mistake. True, spiritual resistance is futile if we are fighting in our own strength, but “with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).”*

Today many marriages are crumbling, and many others have already fallen—but that doesn’t mean all hope is lost for your marriage.

One of the joys I have as a pastor is to be used by God to officiate weddings—but one of my biggest sorrows is to see those same marriages crumble and fall apart a few years later. While it may seem that the foundation of love and commitment that you started to build your marriage upon years ago is damaged beyond repair—with God all things are possible.

The question must not be, “*What can the righteous do?*” but rather, “*What can they not do, with the help of God?*”

As someone has said, “*David had already proved that with a sling and a stone he could fell a giant before whom the whole host of Israel had trembled. In his vocabulary there was no such word as ‘impossible.’*” Now that certainly doesn’t mean that marriage is an easy thing for husbands and wives to navigate either.

Ever since the Fall—marriage has been a difficult proposition to say the least. The reason being because in marriage we have the joining together of two fallen human beings, each cursed with a fallen nature (full of pride and selfishness) trying to become one with each other.

Every year a little over 2 million couples pledge themselves to one another in marriage vowing to love each other and stay together for better or worse until death separates them. Yet almost half of them will eventually wind up getting divorced—Why is that?

It’s actually not that hard to figure out from a biblical standpoint. The reason marriage is so difficult is because it’s under the curse—and therefore under attack! Notice, I didn’t say that marriage is cursed—I said it’s under the curse.

Marriage is a creation of God that predates the curse. God created marriage in Genesis 2 and man fell in Chapter 3—and the Fall brought all of the problems into marriage that we see today and throughout human history.

Let me say it again, the reason marriage is so difficult is because it's under the *curse*, that's true, but what couples often fail to understand is that the devil is using the curse as a cudgel, a weapon to attack their marriages! And if you don't identify the real enemy, you'll never be able to defeat him and have victory in your marriage—

**Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Our struggles in marriage are really not with each other—they are *spiritual* in nature.

Of course, we become willing pawns and participants in the devil's attempt to destroy our marriages through our own selfishness and pride—that's true. So, we can't really blame the devil for our failed marriages—but we must not be '*ignorant of his devices*' either. (2 Corinthians 2:11.)

Again, the real problem in your marriage is spiritual in nature, and if you don't isolate the *core* problem (spiritual warfare) and target it—your marriage will be reduced to endlessly running around trying to fix *symptoms* ("*She spends too much money*"; "*He never talks to me anymore*").

It's been my experience that when you deal with the real issue and fix it—so many of the negative symptoms in your marriage due to pride and selfishness will be greatly reduced or eliminated altogether. So again, what we need to do in our marriages is focus on the core problem which is our fallen natures being manipulated by Satan and used against us to destroy our marriages!

Jesus warned us that—"*If a house (or marriage) is divided against itself, that house (or marriage) cannot stand.*" (Mark 3:25)

Satan's strategy has always been "*divide and conquer*" because he knows there is strength in numbers and that the only way he can defeat us is to—divide us!

**Ecclesiastes 4:9–10, 12 (NLT)**

<sup>9</sup> Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. <sup>10</sup> If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble...<sup>12</sup> A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken. [a husband and a wife and God]

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If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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