

“Groundwork – Part 1”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, September 8, 2019

When we think of strong foundations, we usually think of buildings and homes. Any home or building must always have, first and foremost, a strong foundation. A building, a home, a nation, a family, and a person’s life must have a strong foundation to be able to stand strong and survive the storms and adversities of life.

Every builder and contractor know the importance of Strong Foundations for Buildings. The strength of a building lies in its foundation. The main purpose of the foundation is to hold the structure above it and keep it upright. The higher the structure, the deeper and wider the foundation. Well-built foundations keep the occupants of the building safe during calamities such as earthquakes, floods, strong winds, etc.

1. The foundation of Christianity

1 Corinthians 3:9-17_NKJV: ⁹ For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field; you are God’s building. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Today, our nation's foundation and society are being shaken to their very core by deceptive political issues, ungodly and immoral lifestyles and beliefs, abortions, racial divisions, the increase of hatred, lies, rebellion, terrorism, wars and violence, natural disasters, financial pressures and uncertainties. Spiritual ignorance and deception are abounding in our world, even in many churches, and along with that comes persecution of those who live righteously and churches who teach the truth.

2 Timothy 3:12-13 NLT: ¹² Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.

Psalm 11:2-3 Amplified:

² For look, the wicked are bending the bow;
They take aim with their arrow on the string
To shoot [by stealth] in darkness at the upright in heart.

³ "If the foundations [of a godly society] are destroyed,
What can the righteous do?"

The Bible, God's Word, gives us the answer to this question and every question concerning these days of confusion and chaos.

2. It shows who is behind the wickedness of wicked and ungodly people, their purposes and plans.

Ephesians 2:1-3 NLT: Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Amplified Bible: ⁸ Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour. ⁹ But resist him, be firm in your faith [against his attack—rooted, established, immovable], knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world. [You do not suffer alone.]

3. What can the righteous do?

a. Resistance mindset!! **Hebrews 10:35-39**

b. Be firm in your faith!!! **Romans 10:17; 1 Timothy 1:18-19**

1 Timothy 6:12_NKJV: Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

c. Rooted and established in faith.

Mark 4:14-17_NKJV: ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. ¹⁶ These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

d. Put on God's armor!!

Ephesians 6:10-18_NKJV: ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² 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. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.