

Title/Date: 10/1/23 **“7 Foundations of a Biblical Church” Pt. 4**

(The blueprint of Scripture for building God-honoring churches)

5 Foundational Passages for the Launch of TBC Calvert: 1 Cor. 3:4-15, Col. 1:9-18, Romans 3:20-26, 10:9-17, Eph. 4:11-16, 2 Tim. 3:16-4:5

2 Timothy 3:16-4:5 ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. ^{4:1} I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵ But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Ephesians 4:11-16 ¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

I. Introduction: US History and its foundation of the Bible and Christianity (The New England Primer)

Chad's Bible Quiz (Bible Knowledge All Christians Should Know)

II. Outline: 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's G (Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God alone) (1 Cor. 3:4-15, Rom. 11:36) Ephesians 1:3-6
2. The Foundation of God's S (Jesus our Cornerstone–100% Deity & Humanity)(Colossians 1:13-18,1 Peter 2:2-7) Ephesians 1:7-12
3. The Foundation of God's S (Prayer – Power, Perspective, Perseverance) (Colossians 1:9-12, 4:2) Ephesians 1:13-14
4. The Foundation of God's G (The Good News of Jesus Life, Death, & Resurrection = Righteousness, Forgiveness, & Eternal Life IF one is believing in Jesus through repentance, faith, and Lordship) (Acts 2:22-32, Romans 3:20-26, Mt. 6:33, Mark 1:15, Luke 24:47, John 3:16) Ephesians 2:8-10
5. The Foundation of God's W (The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil) (2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17) Ephesians 2:19-22, 3:1-5
6. The Foundation of God's C (The Body & Bride of Christ – the pillar/support of the truth) (Acts 2:42-47, Eph.1:22-23,3:10-11,3:21,4:1-16,5:23-32) Eph.4:1-16
7. The Foundation of God's S (Preaching to walk God's Way – Holy Living) (1 Timothy 4:12-13,5:20,2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 2:15) Eph.4:17-6:24

III: The Foundation of the Bible and the Church

5. The Foundation of God's W (The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil)

2 Timothy 3:10-17

Out of truth/doctrine flows life – what we believe directs and determines how we live.

Example of Paul: his teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and perseverance outflowed from His faith and knowledge of Scripture

Example of Timothy: His knowledge of the Scripture (sacred writings) that produced in him wisdom that led him to his salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

For all of us – the Bible (All Scripture) is

1. Inspired/God Breathed (lit. theopneustos means exhaled by God) and therefore because it is from God – profitable for:
 - a. Teaching
 - b. Rebuking
 - c. Correcting
 - d. Training in righteousness (right living) = man of God, adequate, equipped every good work

Verses on the Roles and Importance of the Bible/Scripture (2 Tim.3:10-17, 2 Pet.1:19-21, Heb.1:1-2, 4:12,Rom. 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17)

- Jesus is The Word - **John 1:1-5, 14**
- Jesus fulfilled the Word, will fulfill all the Word - **Matthew 5:17-18**
- The Word Saves - **John 8:31-32**
- The Word Sanctifies - **John 17:17**
- The Word teaches us and provides us Hope - **Romans 15:4**
- The Word is the Revelation of God to us - **Hebrews 1:1-3**
- The Word convicts and holds us accountable to God - **Hebrews 4:12-13**
- The Word was written by God through inspired men – O.T. prophets, N.T. apostles - **2 Peter 1:19-21**

6. The Foundation of God's C (The bride of Christ, the body of Christ, the pillar and support of the TRUTH)

Acts 2:42-47

4 main things the early church was DEVOTED to:

1. The Apostles **Teaching** (Bible Study – Learning New Testament Doctrine)
2. **Fellowship** (Practicing and Enjoying the “One Another’s”)
3. **Communion** - The Breaking of Bread (The Lord’s Supper)
4. **Prayer**

The Outcome of this devotion: (5 S's)

1. **Sense** of awe of what God was doing
2. **Sacrifice** (selling and sharing their possessions to meet each other's needs)
3. **Steadfastness** – day by day with One Passion (one mind)
4. **Sincerity** of heart – house to house, meals together
5. **Salvation** – the Lord was adding to their number day by day new converts



POSITIVE "One Another" COMMANDS

Love one another (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16x)
Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
Be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5)
Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
Greet one another (Romans 16:16)
Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)

Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
Consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)
Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)

Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)
Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
Pray for one another (James 5:16)
Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

Why did God establish the church? (Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32)(Ephesians = Ecclesiology (study of the church))

- God's Purpose for the Church – to be the bride of Christ (Rev. 19:7), body of Christ (Eph. 4:12), and the pillar and support of the truth/gospel (1 Tim. 3:15)
- God's Plan/Will for the church – to be holy & blameless before Him in love (Eph. 1:4, 1 Tim 3:15)
- God's Mission for the church (5 E's)
 1. Equip/disciple His followers to MATURITY - towards EVERY GOOD WORK (Eph. 2:10, 4:12, 2 Tim. 3:17, Heb. 13:21)
 2. Evangelize the unbeliever to become true worshippers (1 Cor. 14:24-25)
 3. Exclaim /make known the wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10)
 4. Evaluate /Judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3).
 5. Exonerate /glorify God (Eph. 3:21)
- God's Future for the church – Rapture/Kingdom/Heaven (John 14:1-3, 1 Thess. 4:13-14, 5:9-10, 1 Cor. 15:51-59)

Is the Church Optional or Essential?

- God Commanded us to be faithful to a local church in Hebrews 10:23-25
- Those who truly belong to Christ belong to His church – His body (1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 1:22, 2:19, 3:6, 4:25, 5:23-30, Col. 1:18-24, 3:15)
- The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5, Rev. 19)

What about those who claim to be believers but don't go to church?

- A Sign of unbelief is leaving the fellowship of believers altogether (1 John 2:19)
- The H.S. guides us into truth and obedience, – which will always lead towards (not away from) the preaching and teaching Biblical churches, including the practice of all the "one Anothers" commands (1 Tim. 4:12, John 21:15-17, Titus 2:15, 1 Peter 5:2-3, Acts 20:28)

Why is church so important?

- God knows we are weak by ourselves, but strong together (Ecc. 4:9-10). He has commanded us to meet each others needs (Rom. 12:13, 1 Tim. 5:16, 1 John 3:17), bear each others burdens (Gal. 6:2, Col. 3:13), spur/encourage each other on towards love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24, 1 Thes. 5:11), serve one another (Gal. 5:13), and to pray for one another (James 5:16, Eph. 6:18).
- Satan usually tempts and deceives us in isolation (Matthew 4) and vehemently sows deception (John 8:44, 2 Cor. 11:14, 2 Thes. 2:9-10, Rev. 12:9-10) disunity (James 3:13-16), and discouragement (Mt. 13:39) within the church because he is like a roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8)
- It is God's will that everyone be protected through submission to spiritual leadership (Hebrews 13:17, Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23)

Conclusion: The church is the bride of Christ and part of God's authority structure, body of fellowship, and mouthpiece of the gospel designed to give God glory. Through the church God nourishes us towards optimum spiritual health, protects us, and prepares us to enjoy eternity with him. God designed the church to be a body that truly loves and serves one another like he served and loved us so that we might have a healthy relationship with Him and one another. Thus, the body of Christ is the means for us to enjoy God's provision, protection, and proficiency of God's family and chain of command.

V. Application: Ephesians 5:22-30

How to Choose a Biblical Church - LOOK for, TEST and EVALUATE a church on the following Biblical criteria:

1. Truth/Doctrine – which church is most in line with Scripture and best believes, teaches, and practices the Bible (High View of God/High View of Scripture). Practically the first thing you should do before visiting a church is read their doctrinal statement online or ask for a printed copy of their statement of faith (if they don't have their doctrine as the first thing on online or onsite – not good)

2. Philosophy of Ministry – before joining a church ask to meet with one of the Pastors/Elders (if they are too busy to meet – not good) and ask them questions about their philosophy of ministry – what's the most important, what their priorities are, and how they go about pursuing/accomplishing them (that will tell you a lot of about them and the church). The priorities should be in line with Acts 2:42:

- Doctrine** (Declaring God's truth by preaching through books of the Bible learn and live the whole counsel of God's will)
- Worship** (Presenting ourselves before God with sincere hearts to gratefully and passionately glorify the One true Triune God)
- Fellowship** (Practicing of the One Anothers with Selfless Love, Compassion, Kindness, Service to others)
- Prayer** (Seeking earnestly and regularly God's Power, Perspective, Perseverance in our lives & ministry)
- Gospel** (Sharing God's Gracious Plan of salvation with concern for the Eternity of all people by faithful and fruitful evangelism)

3. Personal Example/Biblical Qualifications of the Elders and Deacons. Also ask them about their personal relationship/walk with the Lord - what I call the Big 5:

- Their relationship with God (devotional life)
- Their relationship with their spouse (married life)
- Their relationship with their children (family life)
- Their relationship with their sheep/people (church life)
- Their relationship with the lost (evangelism life)

(If they don't have a healthy/vibrant relationship with God neither will the church...if they don't Biblically lead/manage their own homes well they won't manage the church any better). The spiritual health of the church will usually resemble the health of the Pastor and his family unless the church is apathetic and rebellious against his preaching/example. 1 Timothy 3:5⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

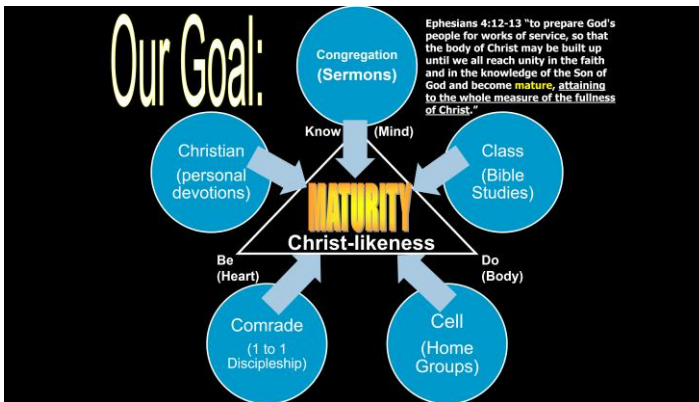
4. Holy Living/Progressive Sanctification and Obedience of the Congregation - Do you see in the church as a whole...

- The People regularly WITNESSING /sharing their faith, evangelizing the lost (new people being saved, baptized, and added to the church – spiritual multiplication/reproduction - Acts 1:8, 2:41,47 5:14, 6:1,7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5, 19:20)
- The People regularly PRAYING for the lost, praying for each other, seeking God’s will - His power, His perspective, His perseverance – Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4)
- The People regularly FELLOWSHIPPING, practicing the one anothers, and enjoying their closest friendships within the church – Acts 2:42, Hebrews 13:16.
- The People regularly STUDYING and growing in their knowledge and practice of the Holy Scriptures privately (personal devotions) and corporately (Congregation, Class, Cell, Comrade, and Christian settings) (Goal to learn and live out the truth of God’s Word – Acts 6:4, 2 Peter 3:18).
- The People progressively OBEYING the commands of Jesus in the N.T. (Acts 5:29, Mt. 28:18-20) so that others can see a growing Christlikeness/holiness/difference in their marriage, family, conduct at work, service/contribution within the church, and outreach/Christian witness to the unsaved world around them. (Goal to be rounding the bases – 1st base/conversion, 2nd base/baptism, 3rd base/membership & maturity, Home base – death, rapture, Kingdom, Heaven

5. Their overall goals, motives, and mission statement (how do they define success, who are they trying to please, who are what are they striving for)

Do you see in the church as a whole...

- A Focus on man vs a focus on God
- A Focus on money vs Christian maturity
- A Focus on buildings/facilities vs the true temples (people’s souls that last forever)
- A Focus on success by what man sees/thinks/wants (numbers, buildings, programs, popularity, influence) vs what God sees/thinks/wills (new people saved, new people baptized, new people disciplined/equipped towards Christlike maturity)
- A Focus on the Culture vs a Focus on Scripture
- A Focus on the Temporary vs a Focus on the Kingdom/Eternity
- A Focus on Self vs a focus on the Savior

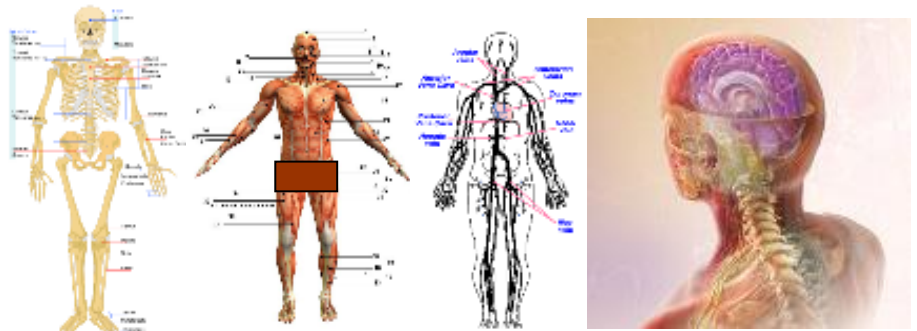


The Anatomy of a Biblical Church (adopted from John MacArthur’s book “The Master’s Plan for the Church”)

The skeletal structure: A High View of God, A High View of Scripture, Sound Doctrine, Personal Holiness, Spiritual Authority

The Muscles: Preaching/Teaching, Evangelism/Missions, Worship, Prayer, Discipleship, Shepherding, Building Up Families, Training, Giving, Fellowship

The Internal Systems: Obedience, Humility, Love, Unity, Willingness to Serve, Joy, Peace, Thankfulness, Self-Discipline, Accountability, Forgiveness, Dependence, Flexibility, Desire for Growth, Faithfulness, Hope



The Head: Jesus Christ our Savior, Shepherd, Sovereign, and Sanctifier

Chad’s Bible Quiz (Modern Catechism) (based off of TBC’s 12 category statement of faith)

- Bible (Bibliology) - Name the 39 books of the O.T. and 27 books of the Bible (66 total)?** Genesis-Malachi, Matthew-Revelation
- Gospel (Soteriology) - What is the gospel?** (Jesus’ life, death, resurrection to provide sinful man righteousness, forgiveness, and eternal life through repentance, believing faith, and Lordship commitment) **Romans 3:21-26, 10:9-13**
Good Confession - What is your Christian testimony? – how and when you received the gospel and became a follower/worshipper of Jesus?
- Trinity (Theology) - where is the concept of the Trinity in the Bible?** (3 in 1 - God is one essence but also 3 distinct persons God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit) **Gen. 1:26, Mt. 28:18-20, 2 Cor. 13:14, ***Eph. 1:3-14**
- Father (Paterology) - Who is God the Father?** (Yahweh - Eternal, Holy, Sovereign – 3 Omnis: Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent) **Eph. 1:3-6**
- Son (Christology) - Who is God the Son?** (Jesus Christ – pre-existent Son, co-equal creator, image of God/O.T. theophanies, incarnation/virgin birth, perfect/sinless life, sacrificial lamb/death, victorious resurrection, ascension, intercession, rapture/reward of the church, Second Coming/Forever Kingdom – Millennial Reign and New Heavens/Earth) **Ephesians 1:7-12**

6. **Spirit (Pneumatology)- Who is God the Holy Spirit?**— The Spirit of Truth/Wisdom/Revelation, Spirit of Grace, Spirit of Life, Eternal Spirit/Spirit of Glory, Helper, His Spirit/Spirit of God/the Lord/Jesus/Christ, Spirit of Promise) **Ephesians 1:13-14**
7. **Creation (Cosmology)** - What did God create on the each day of creation? (**Genesis 1-2**) Why is it important to believe in 6 literal days of creation and not a gap theory, theistic evolution, or theories that treat Chapters 1-11 as methodical? Compare **Gen. 1-2** use of the Hebrew word "yom" with **Ex. 20:8-11** (work six days and rest a day just as God created the earth in 6 days and rested on the 7th day) same author – Moses, using the same word, same context/ use to describe literal 24 hours days.
8. **Good Angels (Angelology)**— what are the two kinds of angels in the Bible? (Isaiah 6 S___, Ezek. 10 C___Who are the two good famous angels in the Bible? Archangel M___ (Daniel 10:13, 21, 12:1, Jude 1:9, Rev. 12:7) and G___ (Dan. 8:16, 9:21, Luke 1:19, 26)
9. **Fallen Angels (Demonology)** – where is the fall of Satan in the O.T. (Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:12-19) and N.T. (**Luke 10:18**), where does it say 1/3 of the angels fell with Satan? (**Rev. 12:4**)
10. **Man (Anthropology)** – what does the Bible say about the nature, sinfulness, and fallen condition of man? (**Genesis 3, Galatians 3, Romans 3**)
11. **Church (Ecclesiology)**— What is the name ekklesia mean where is it where is it first used? (**Mt. 16:18, 18:17**) Why is the church called the bride of Christ in **Eph. 5:22-33/Rev. 19:7**, the pillar/support of the truth in **1 Tim. 3:15**, and the body of Christ in (**1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 1:22, 2:19, 3:6, 4:25, 5:23-30, Col. 1:18-24, 3:15**)? What is the end state/goal of God for the church according to **Eph. 1:4/5:27/Col. 1:22**? What is the mission of Elders/Pastors to do with their sheep/people – equip towards M___ according to **Eph. 4:13, Col. 1:28-29**, and **Heb. 5:12-Eph. 6:2**? What are the benchmarks of Christian maturity? What are the 3 remaining offices of the church according to **Eph. 4:11**? Where are the qualifications for Elders and Deacons in the Bible? (**1 Timothy 3:2-7, 8-13, Titus 1:5-9**) Name some of the "one anothers" of Scripture and where they are found in the Bible? Truth, Love, and the Power of Changed lives convinced the hardest hearts to believe according to **Acts 6:7** – what convinced you? **Acts 2:42-46** is a beautiful description of love in action within the church described as "one mind" (one passion) – what are you passionate about? Does it have any correlation or contribution to Christ or Christ's people the church?
12. **End Times (Eschatology)**
 1. **Pretribulation Rapture and the doctrine of imminency** (**John 14:1-3, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, 1 Cor. 15:42-58, Titus 2:13**) (**1 Corinthians 1:7, 16:22, Philippians 3:20, 4:5, 1 Thess. 1:10, 5:6, 1 Timothy 6:14, Titus 2:13, Hebrews 9:28, James 5:7-9, 1 Peter 1:13, Jude 21, Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20, 22:17, 20**)
 2. **Bema Judgment of Rewards for Believers** – **2 Cor. 5:10, Romans 14:10**
 3. **Seven Year Tribulation/Rise of the Anti-Christ/False Prophet/One world government and false religion** – **Daniel 7-9, Mt. 24:4-28, 2 Thess. 2, 2 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 John 2:18-22, 4:3, 2 Jn. 1:7, 2:18, Rev. 6-18**
 4. **Premillennial 2nd Coming of Christ with all His angles & saints** – **Mt. 24:29-51, Zech. 12-14, Rev. 19 (Mt 19:28; 23:39 ; 24:3—25:46 ; Mk. 13:24-37; Lk. 12:35-48; 17:22-37 ; 18:8 ; 21:25-28 ; Acts 1:10-11; 15:16-18 ; Rom 11:25-27; 1 Cor 11:26; 2 Thess 1:7-10; 2:8 ; 2 Pet 3:3-4; Jd.1:14-15 ; Rev 1:7-8; 2:25-28;16:15 ;19:11-21 ; 22:20).**
 5. **Literal One Thousand Year Reign of Christ on Earth (Millennial Kingdom)** Psalm 2, Revelation 20, Isaiah 2:4, 11:6-9, 42:1, 32:18) to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant/specifically the land promises (**Gen, 12, 13:15, 15:18-20, 17:8, Dt. 30:1-10, Num. 34:1-12, 1 Kings 4:21-24, Ezekiel 16:60**). to fulfill the Davidic Covenant (**2 Samuel 7:16, Ps. 132:11, Is. 9:7, Is. 16:5, Jer. 17:25, 33:17, Mt. 21:1-17, Luke 1:32, Rev. 20:4-6**) to fulfill the New Covenant with nationalistic Israel (**Jer. 31:33, Ezekiel 36:28, Is. 59:20-21, Romans 9-11**), and to fulfill all the promises of the Bible to the nations that are yet to be fulfilled like removal of the curse, all enemies under His feet, restoration of creation (**Psalm 110, Daniel 7:11-14, Romans 8:18-23, Is. 11:6-9, 32:13-15, Ezek. 34:16**)
 6. **The Last Rebellion (Fire from Heaven/Game Over) Great White Throne Judgment/Lake of Fire** – **Rev. 20:7-15**
 7. **Heaven Proper** – The New Heavens, New Earth, New Jeruslaem – **Revelation 21-22, Isaiah 65-66, 2 Peter 3:13**

Chad's Advanced Bible Memory and Bible Survey Catechism

- **Bible Memory - Quote the most famous verses on the gospel from Bible? (John 3:16, Romans 3:21-26. 5:8-9, 10:9-13, Titus 3:5-6)**
- **Jesus' Gospel - Where did Jesus thoroughly and most famously present the gospel? (Sermon on the Mount – Mt. 5-7)**
- **Where does Jesus, John the Baptist, and Paul summarize their entire ministry and gospel calling for repentance and faith? (Mark 1:15, Acts 19:4, Acts 20:21, and Heb. 6:1-2)**
- **Who are the Main Characters of the O.T.?** Who is Adam and Eve? **Gen.1-3** Cain and Abel? (**Gen. 4**) Noah and sons? (**Gen. 6-10**) Job? (**Job**) Abraham? (**Gen. 12-23**) Isaac? (**Gen. 24-26**) Jacob? (**Gen. 27-36**) Joseph? (**Gen. 37-50**) Moses and Aaron? (**Ex, Nu, Lv, Dt**) Joshua and Caleb? (**Joshua**) Gideon and Samson? (**Judges**) Ruth? (**Ruth**) Hannah and Samuel? (**1 & 2 Samuel**) Saul and Jonathan? (**1 Samuel**) David? (**2 Samuel, 2 Chronicles, Psalms**) Solomon? (**1 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs**) Elijah and Elishah (**1 Kings**) The only 8 good Kings of Judah - Asa? (**1 Kings 15:11**) Jehoshaphat? (**2 Chron. 17:3-4**) Joash? (**2 Kings 12:1-2**) Amaziah? (**2 Kings 14:1-3**) Azariah/Uzziah? (**2 Kings 15:1-3**) Jotham (**2 Kings 15:32-34**), Hezekiah? (**2 Kings 18:1-3**), Josiah? (**2 Kings 22:1-2**) After the exile - Ezra? (**Ezra**), Nehemiah? (**Nehemiah**)? Esther and Mordechai (**Esther**), The Major Prophets - Isaiah? (**Isaiah**), Jeremiah? (**Jeremiah, Lamentations**), Ezekiel? (**Ezekiel**), Daniel? (**Daniel**), The Minor Prophets - Hosea? (**Hosea**), Joel? (**Joel**), Amos? (**Amos**), Obadiah? (**Obadiah**), Jonah? (**Jonah**) Micah? (**Micah**) Nahum? (**Nahum**) Habbakuk? (**Habbakuk**) Zephaniah? (**Zephaniah**) Haggai? (**Haggai**) Zechariah? (**Zechariah**) Malachi? (**Malachi**)
- **4 Gospels - What are the four gospels and what was their unique purpose, audience, and emphasis? Matthew** – Jews/O.T., **Mark/** Peter – Romans, **Luke/** Paul – Greeks, **John** – Everyone
- **12 apostles – what are the names of the 12 Sent Ones commissioned by Jesus? (Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:13-16, Acts 1:13)** Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, Matthias who replaced Judas the Betrayer
- **Acts - What is the book of Acts about? (outline of Acts 1:8)**, Jerusalem (**Acts 1:1-6:7**), Judea, Samaria (**Acts 6:8-12:24**), Ends of the earth (**Acts 12:25-28:31**) ...also what are the Main leaders in chapters **1-12** P_____ and chapters **13-28** P_____?
- **Pauline Epistles - Who was the Apostle to the Gentles? (Romans 1:5, 11:13, Gal. 2:8, 1 Tim. 2:7)** List the 14 Pauline Epistles...what books did he write to churches and what books did he write to Pastors/Pastoral Epistles? What books are known as the Prison Epistles? What book is likely written by Paul but some same Luke, Apollos, or Barnabus?
- **General Epistles - List the 7 books known as the General Letters? James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1,2,3 John , Jude**
- **Final Prophecy - What is the last book of Revelation about?** Eschatology is the doctrine/study of last/E___ times/things. The King (**ch. 1**), the Church (**ch. 2-3**), the Throne (**ch. 4-5**), the tribulation (**ch. 6-18**), The 2nd coming (**ch. 19**), The Kingdom (**ch. 20**), The New heavens and New Earth (**Ch. 21-22**)

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TRUTH BIBLE CHURCH



FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SEEKING TO...

LOVE GOD SUPREMELY

Matthew 22:37-38 ³⁷ And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." ³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment.

SERVE PEOPLE SINCERELY

Matthew 22:39 ³⁹ "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

REACH THE LOST URGENTLY

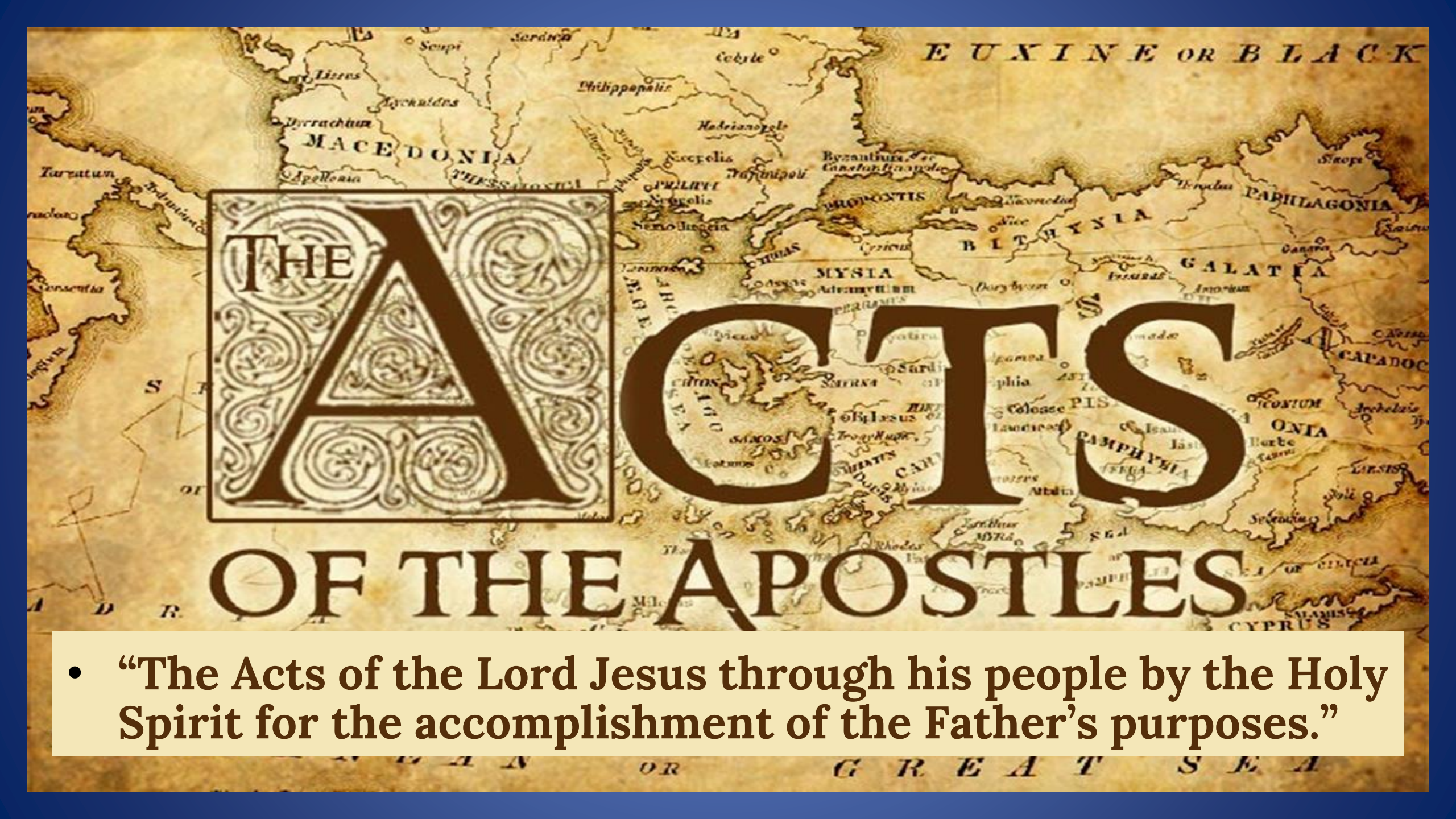
Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 2:36-47

⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Ephesians 4:11–16

¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.



THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- “The Acts of the Lord Jesus through his people by the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of the Father’s purposes.”

Sermon Title:

“7 Foundations of a Biblical Church” (pt 3)

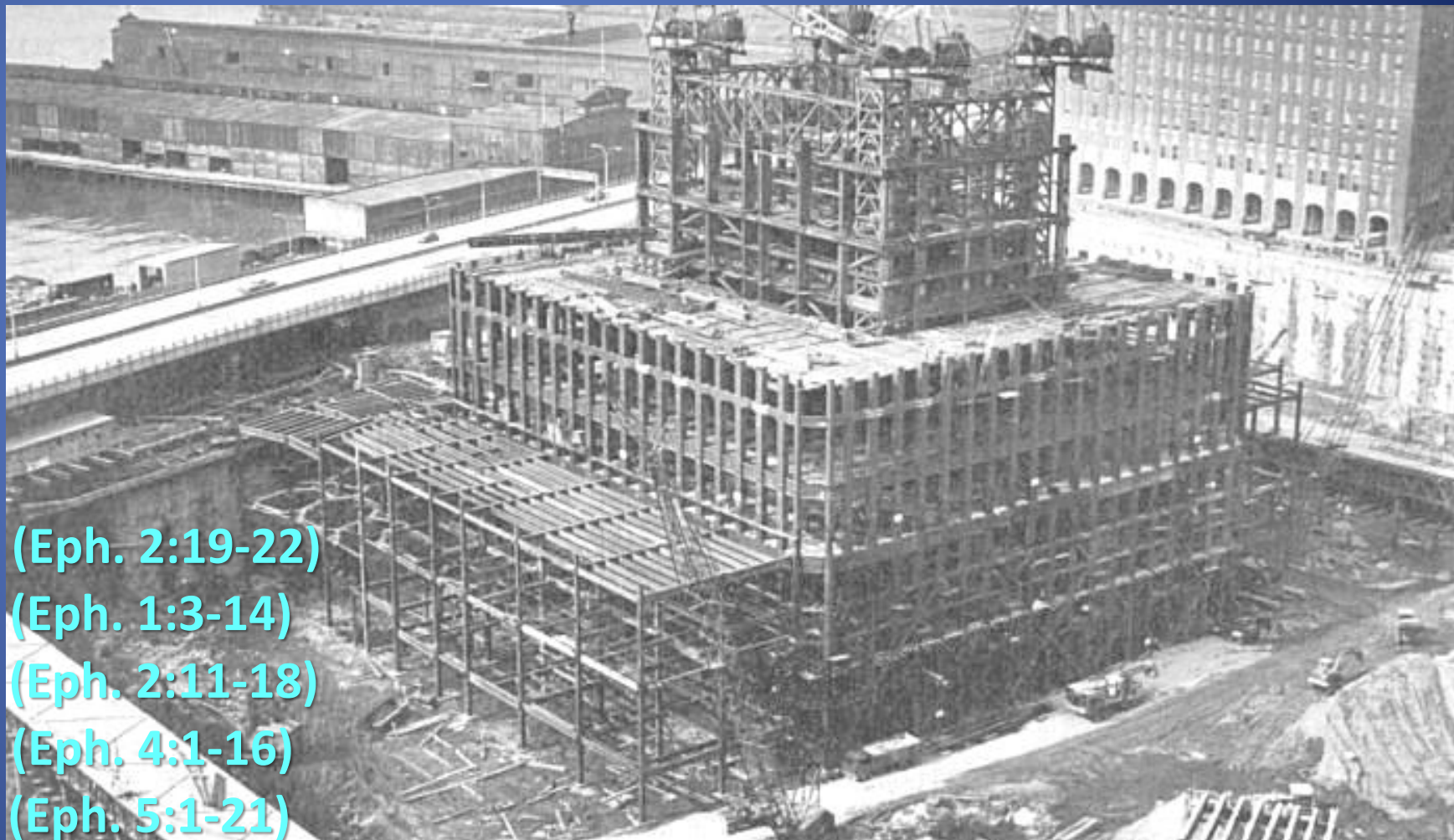
(The blueprint of Scripture for building God-honoring churches)

- TBC St. Mary’s
August 17, 2008

- TBC Calvert
September 10, 2023

5 Foundational Passages
for the Launch of TBC Calvert:

- 1 Corinthians 3:4-15 (Eph. 2:19-22)
- Colossians 1:9-18 (Eph. 1:3-14)
- Romans 3:20-26, 10:9-13 (Eph. 2:11-18)
- Acts 2:42-27 (Eph. 4:1-16)
- 2 Timothy 3:12-4:5 (Eph. 5:1-21)



7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's Glory (Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God alone) (1 Corinthians 3:4-15, Romans 11:36)

Ephesians 1:3-6

2. The Foundation of God's Son (Jesus our Cornerstone–100% Deity & Humanity)(Colossians 1:13-18,1 Peter 2:2-7)

Ephesians 1:7-12

3. The Foundation of God's Spirit (Prayer – Power, Perspective, Perseverance) (Colossians 1:9-12, 4:2)

Ephesians 1:13-14

4. The Foundation of God's Gospel (The Good News of Jesus Life, Death, & Resurrection = Righteousness, Forgiveness, & Eternal Life IF one is believing in Jesus through repentance, faith, & Lordship) (Romans 3:20-26, 10:9-13, Acts 2:22-41)

Ephesians 2:8-10

5. The Foundation of God's Word (The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil) (2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17)

Ephesians 2:19-22, 3:1-5

6. The Foundation of God's Church (The Body & Bride of Christ – the pillar and support of the truth)

Ephesians 4:11-16 (Eph. 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32, Acts 2:42-47)

7. The Foundation of God's Shepherds (Preaching Holy Living-to walk God's way)(1Tim.4:12-13,5:20,2Tim.4:1-5,Titus 2:15)

Ephesians 4:17-6:24

Introduction

T H E
N E W - E N G L A N D
P R I M E R

I M P R O V E D
For the more easy attaining the true
reading of English.

T O W H I C H I S A D D E D
The Assembly of Divines, and
Mr. COTTON'S *Catechism*.

B O S T O N :

1777.

M I L K
F O R
B A B E S .

D R A W N
Out of the Breasts of both
T E S T A M E N T S .

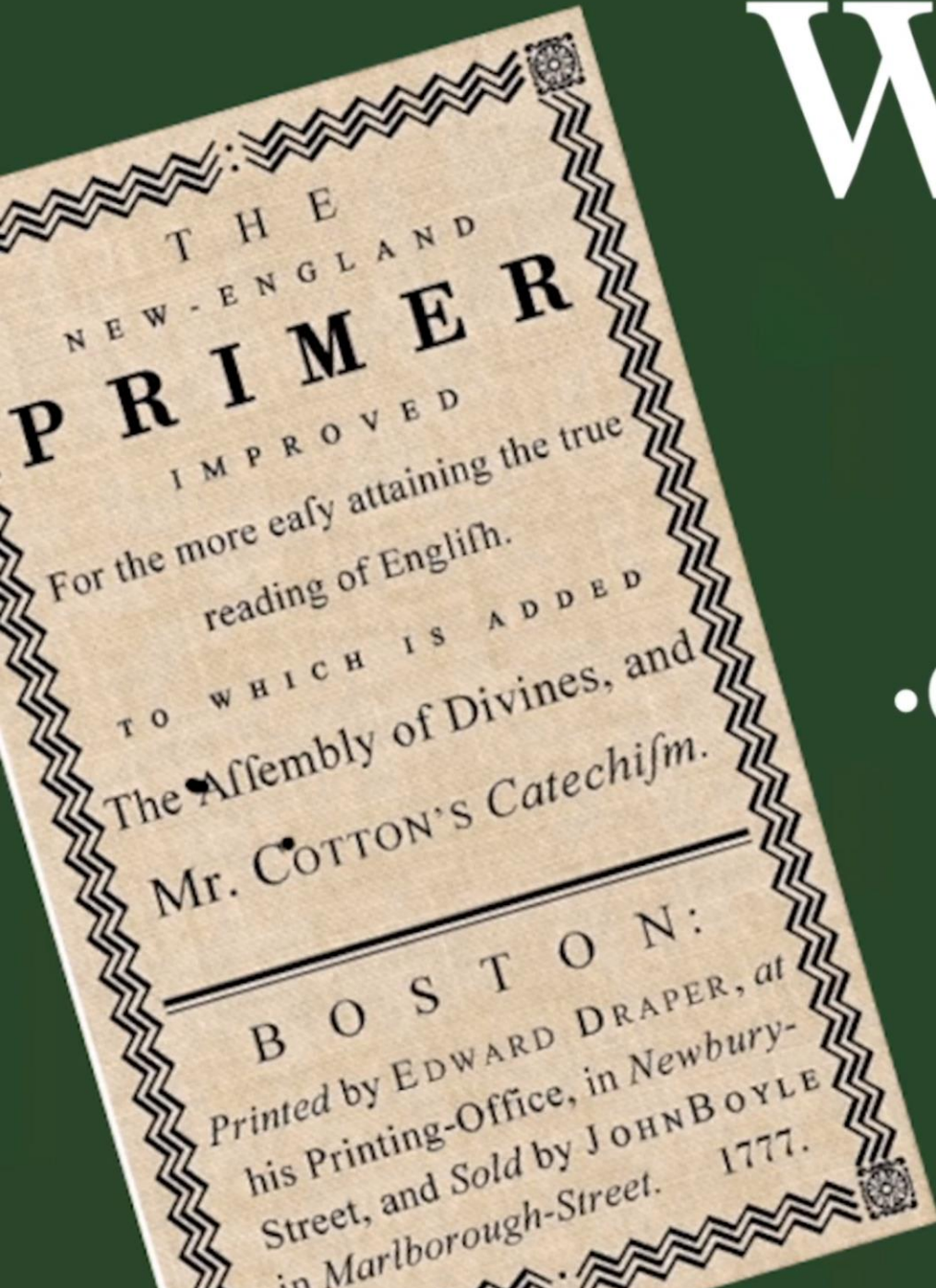
Chiefly, for the spirituall nourishment
of *Boston Babes* in either *England* :
But may be of like use for any
Children.

By JOHN COTTON, B. D.
and Teacher to the Church of Boston
in New-England.

L O N D O N ,
Printed by J. Coe, for Henry Overton,
and are to be sold at his Shop, in
Popes-head Alley.
1646.

Graduated literacy instruction began with the alphabet, simple letter combinations, and syllables, increasing to complex sentences intended for rote memorization. Themes of sin, death, punishment, salvation, and respect for authority were displayed through alphabetic rhymed couplets, poems, prayers, and scriptures.

What's in it?



- Grammar lessons
- Catechism, Prayers, Scripture
- Poetry



Basic Christian Catechism for Children

a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians.

- Who was the first man ?
Adam.
- Who was the first woman ?
Eve.
- Who was the first Murderer ?
Cain.
- Who was the first Martyr ?
Abel.
- Who was the first Translated ?
Enoch.
- Who was the oldest Man ?
Methuselah.
- Who built the Ark ?
Noah.
- Who was the Patientest Man ?
Job.
- Who was the Meekest Man ?
Moses.
- Who led Israel into Canaan ?
Joshua.
- Who was the strongest Man ?
Sampson.
- Who killed Goliath ?
David.
- Who was the wisest Man ?
Soloman.
- Who was in the Whale's Belly?
Jonah.
- Who saves lost Men ?
Jesus Christ.
- Who is Jesus Christ ?
The Son of God.
- Who was the Mother of Christ ?
Mary.
- Who betrayed his Master ?
Judas.
- Who denied his Master ?
Peter.
- Who was the first Christian
Martyr?
Stephen.
- Who was chief Apostle of the
Gentiles ?
Saul.

Chad's Bible Quiz

Bible Knowledge All Christians Should Know

- **Bible - Name the 39 books of the O.T. and 27 books of the Bible (66 total)?** Genesis-Malachi, Matthew-Revelation
- **Gospel - What is the gospel?** (Jesus' life, death, resurrection to provide sinful man righteousness, forgiveness, and eternal life through repentance, believing faith, and Lordship commitment) **Romans 3:21-26, 10:9-13**
- **Good Confession - What is your Christian testimony?** – how and when you received the gospel and became a follower/worshipper of Jesus?
- **Trinity - where is the concept of the Trinity in the Bible?** (3 in 1 - God is one essence but also 3 distinct persons God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit) **Gen. 1:26, Mt. 28:18-20, 2 Cor. 13:14, ***Eph. 1:3-14**
- **Father - Who is God the Father?** (Yahweh - Eternal, Holy, Sovereign – 3 Omnis: Omniscient, Omnipresent, Omnipotent) **Ephesians 1:3-6**
- **Son - Who is God the Son?** (Jesus Christ – preexistent Son, co-equal creator, image of God/O.T. theophanies, incarnation/virgin birth, perfect/sinless life, sacrificial lamb/death, victorious resurrection, ascension, intercession, rapture/reward of the church, 2nd Coming/Forever Kingdom – Millennial Reign and New Heavens/Earth) **Ephesians 1:7-12**
- **Spirit - Who is God the Holy Spirit?**– The Spirit of Truth/Wisdom/Revelation, Spirit of Grace, Spirit of Life, Eternal Spirit/Spirit of Glory, Helper, His Spirit/Spirit of God/the Lord/Jesus/Christ, Spirit of Promise) **Ephesians 1:13-14**

Chad's Bible Quiz - Bible Knowledge All Christians Should Know

- **Creation** - What did God create on the each day of creation? (**Genesis 1-2**) Why is it important to believe in 6 literal days of creation and not a gap theory, theistic evolution, or theories that treat Chapters 1-11 as methodical? Compare **Gen. 1-2** use of the Hebrew word “yom” with **Ex. 20:8-11** (work six days and rest a day just as God created the earth in 6 days and rested on the 7th day) same author – Moses, using the same word, same context/ use to describe literal 24 hours days.
- **Good Angels** – what are the two kinds of angels in the Bible? (Isaiah 6 S___, Ezek. 10 C___) Who are the two good famous angels in the Bible? Archangel M___ (Daniel 10:13, 21, 12:1, Jude 1:9, Rev. 12:7) and G___ (Dan. 8:16, 9:21, Luke 1:19, 26)
- **Fallen Angels** – where is the fall of Satan in the O.T. (Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:12-19) and N.T. (**Luke 10:18**), where does it say 1/3 of the angels fell with Satan? (**Rev. 12:4**)
- **Man** – what does the Bible say about the nature, sinfulness, and fallen condition of man? (**Gen 3, Gal. 3, Rom. 3**)
- **Church** – What is the name ekklesia mean where is it where is it first used? (**Mt. 16:18, 18:17**) Why is the church called the bride of Christ in **Eph. 5:22-33/Rev. 19:7**, the pillar/support of the truth in **1 Tim. 3:15**, and the body of Christ in (**1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 1:22, 2:19, 3:6, 4:25, 5:23-30, Col. 1:18-24, 3:15**)? What is the end state/goal of God for the church according to **Eph. 1:4/5:27/Col. 1:22**? What is the mission of Elders/Pastors to do with their sheep/people – equip towards M ___ according to **Eph. 4:13, Col. 1:28-29**, and **Heb. 5:12-Eph. 6:2**? What are the benchmarks of Christian maturity? What are the 3 remaining offices of the church according to **Eph. 4:11**? Where are the qualifications for Elders and Deacons in the Bible? (**1 Timothy 3:2-7, 8-13, Titus 1:5-9**) Name some of the “one anothers” of Scripture and where they are found in the Bible? Truth, Love, and the Power of Changed lives convinced the hardest hearts to believe according to **Acts 6:7** – what convinced you? **Acts 2:42-46** is a beautiful description of love in action within the church described as “one mind” (one passion) – what are you passionate about? Does it have any correlation or contribution to Christ or Christ’s people the church?

Chad's Bible Quiz - Bible Knowledge All Christians Should Know

Eschatology – End Times

- 1. Pretribulational Rapture and the doctrine of imminency** (John 14:1-3, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, 1 Cor. 15:42-58, Titus 2:13) (1 Corinthians 1:7, 16:22, Philippians 3:20, 4:5, 1 Thess. 1:10, 5:6, 1 Timothy 6:14, Titus 2:13, Hebrews 9:28, James 5:7-9, 1 Peter 1:13, Jude 21, Revelation 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20, 22:17, 20)
- 2. Bema Judgment of Rewards for Believers** – 2 Cor. 5:10, Romans 14:10
- 3. Seven Year Tribulation/Rise of the Anti-Christ/False Prophet/One world government and false religion** – Daniel 7-9, Mt. 24:4-28, 2 Thess. 2, 2 Timothy 3:1-7, 1 John 2:18-22, 4:3, 2 Jn. 1:7, 2:18, Rev. 6-18
- 4. Premillennial 2nd Coming of Christ with all His angels and saints** – Mt. 24:29-51, Zechariah 12-14, Revelation 19 (Matt 19:28; 23:39 ; 24:3—25:46 ; Mark 13:24-37; Luke 12:35-48; 17:22-37 ; 18:8 ; 21:25-28 ; Acts 1:10-11; 15:16-18 ; Rom 11:25-27; 1 Cor 11:26; 2 Thess 1:7-10; 2:8 ; 2 Pet 3:3-4; Jude 1:14-15 ; Rev 1:7-8; 2:25-28 ; 16:15 ; 19:11-21 ; 22:20).
- 5. Literal One Thousand Year Reign of Christ on Earth (Millennial Kingdom)** Psalm 2, Revelation 20, Isaiah 2:4, 11:6-9, 42:1, 32:18) to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant/specifically the land promises (Gen, 12, 13:15, 15:18-20, 17:8, Dt. 30:1-10, Num. 34:1-12, 1 Kings 4:21-24, Ezekiel 16:60). to fulfill the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:16, Ps. 132:11, Is. 9:7, Is. 16:5, Jer. 17:25, 33:17, Mt. 21:1-17, Luke 1:32, Rev. 20:4-6) to fulfill the New Covenant with nationalistic Israel (Jer. 31:33, Ezekiel 36:28, Is. 59:20-21, Romans 9-11), and to fulfill all the promises of the Bible to the nations that are yet to be fulfilled like removal of the curse, all enemies under His feet, restoration of creation (Psalm 110, Daniel 7:11-14, Romans 8:18-23, Is. 11:6-9, 32:13-15, Ezek. 34:16)
- 6. The Last Rebellion (Fire from Heaven/Game Over) Great White Throne Judgment/Lake of Fire** – Rev. 20:7-15
- 7. Heaven Proper** – The New Heavens, New Earth, New Jerusalem – Revelation 21-22, Isaiah 65-66, 2 Peter 3:13

Chad's Bible Quiz

Bible Knowledge All Christians Should Know:

- **Bible Memory - Quote the most famous verses on the gospel from Bible?**
(John 3:16, Romans 3:21-26. 5:8-9, 10:9-13, Titus 3:5-6)
- **Jesus' Gospel - Where did Jesus thoroughly and most famously present the gospel?**
(Sermon on the Mount – Mt. 5-7)
- **Where does Jesus, John the Baptist, and Paul summarize their entire ministry and gospel calling for repentance and faith? (Mark 1:15, Acts 19:4, Acts 20:21, and Hebrews 6:1-2)**
- **Who are the Main Characters of the O.T.?** Who is Adam and Eve? Gen.1-3 Cain and Abel? (Gen. 4) Noah and sons? (Gen. 6-10) Job? (Job) Abraham? (Gen. 12-23) Isaac? (Gen. 24-26) Jacob? (Gen. 27-36) Joseph? (Gen. 37-50) Moses and Aaron? (Ex, Nu, Lv, Dt) Joshua and Caleb? (Joshua) Gideon and Samson? (Judges) Ruth? (Ruth) Hannah and Samuel? (1 & 2 Samuel) Saul and Jonathan? (1 Samuel) David? (2 Samuel, 2 Chronicles, Psalms) Solomon? (1 Kings, 2 Chronicles, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs) Elijah and Elishah (1 Kings) The only 8 good Kings of Judah - Asa? (1 Kings 15:11) Jehoshaphat? (2 Chron. 17:3-4) Joash? (2 Kings 12:1-2) Amaziah? (2 Kings 14:1-3) Azariah/Uzziah? (2 Kings 15:1-3) Jotham (2 Kings 15:32-34), Hezekiah? (2 Kings 18:1-3), Josiah? (2 Kings 22:1-2) After the exile - Ezra? (Ezra), Nehemiah? (Nehemiah?) Esther and Mordechai (Esther), The Major Prophets - Isaiah? (Isaiah), Jeremiah? (Jeremiah, Lamentations), Ezekiel? (Ezekiel), Daniel? (Daniel), The Minor Prophets - Hosea? (Hosea), Joel? (Joel), Amos? (Amos), Obadiah? (Obadiah), Jonah?(Jonah) Micah? (Micah) Nahum? (Nahum) Habbakuk? (Habbakuk) Zephaniah? (Zephaniah) Haggai? (Haggai) Zechariah? (Zechariah) Malachi? (Malachi)

Chad's Bible Quiz

Bible Knowledge All Christians Should Know

- **4 Gospels** - What are the four gospels and what was their unique purpose, audience, and emphasis? **Matthew** – Jews/O.T., **Mark**/ Peter – Romans, **Luke**/ Paul – Greeks, **John** - Everyone
- **12 apostles** – what are the names of the 12 Sent Ones commissioned by Jesus? (**Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:13-16, Acts 1:13**) Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot, Matthias who replaced Judas the Betrayer
- **Acts** - What is the book of Acts about? (**outline of Acts 1:8**), Jerusalem (**Acts 1:1-6:7**), Judea, Samaria (**Acts 6:8-12:24**), Ends of the earth (**Acts 12:25-28:31**) ...also what are the Main leaders in chapters **1-12** P_____and chapters **13-28** P_____?
- **Pauline Epistles** - Who was the Apostle to the Gentles? (**Romans 1:5, 11:13, Gal. 2:8, 1 Tim. 2:7**) List the 14 Pauline Epistles...what books did he write to churches and what books did he write to Pastors/Pastoral Epistles? What books are known as the Prison Epistles? What book is likely written by Paul but some say Luke, Apollos, or Barnabus?
- **General Epistles** - List the 7 books known as the General Letters? **James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1,2,3 John, Jude**
- **Final Prophecy** - What is the last book of Revelation about? Eschatology is the doctrine/study of last/E___ times/things. The King (**ch. 1**), the Church (**ch. 2-3**), the Throne (**ch. 4-5**), the tribulation (**ch. 6-18**), The 2nd Coming (**ch. 19**), The Kingdom (**ch. 20**), The New heavens and New Earth (**Ch. 21-22**)

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's Glory (What is Eternal / What Lasts)

Our Church must be:

- God Focused
- God Powered
- God Glorifying

because it's

1. **God's** growth (2x)
2. **God's** workers
3. **God's** field
4. **God's** building
5. **God's** grace

1 Corinthians 3:4-15 ⁴ For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere* men? ⁵ What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but **God was causing the growth.** ⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but **God who causes the growth.** ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are **God's fellow workers;** you are **God's field,** **God's building.** ¹⁰ 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.



INAGURATION DATE
MAY 1, 1931



The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

2. The Foundation of God's Son (to have the supremacy in EVERYTHING)

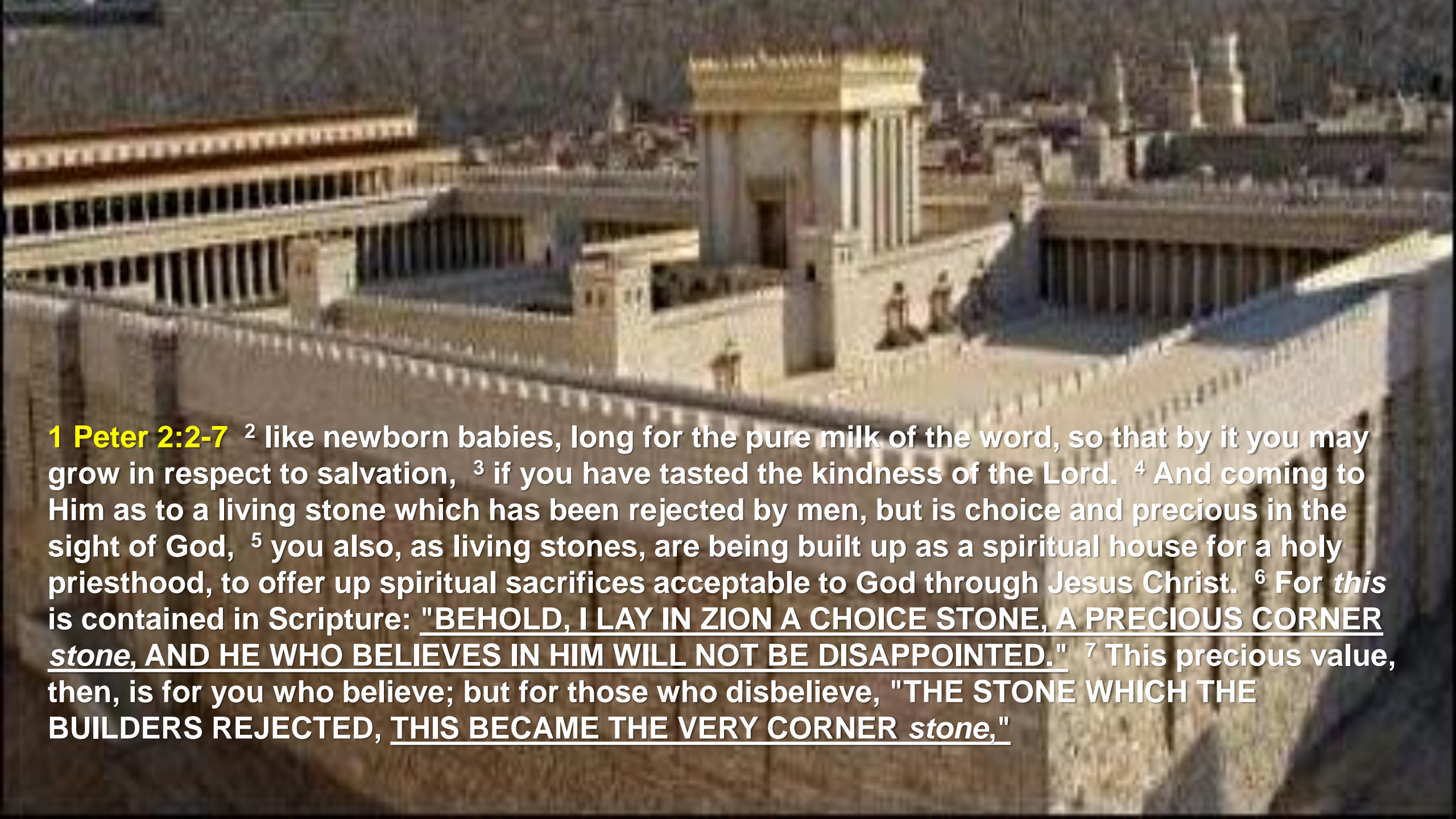
Jesus is our...

- **Deliverer** (from the domain of darkness - slavery to Sin/Satan/Hell)
- **King** (Entrance into God's Eternal Kingdom)
- **Redeemer** (redemption - saved from God's wrath by His blood)
- **Savior** (Forgiveness of ALL sin)

Jesus is:

1. The **Image** of the Invisible God
2. **Preeminent one** of all creation (Unique one/preeminent)
3. The **Creator** of the Universe (all things created through Him and FOR Him)
4. **Sustainer** of Life (in Him all things hold together)
5. **Head** of the Church
6. **First one** from the dead (beginning – will raise us also)
7. **Worthy** of 1st Place/ Supremacy in EVERYTHING!

Colossians 1:13-18 ¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.



1 Peter 2:2-7 ² like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, ³ if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. ⁴ And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For *this* is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." ⁷ This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,"



Isaiah 28:16 ¹⁶ Therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone,
A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly
placed. He who believes *in it* will not be disturbed.

14ft

45ft

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

3. The Foundation of God's Spirit (The Holy Spirit)

(Perspective, Power, and Perseverance through PRAYER)

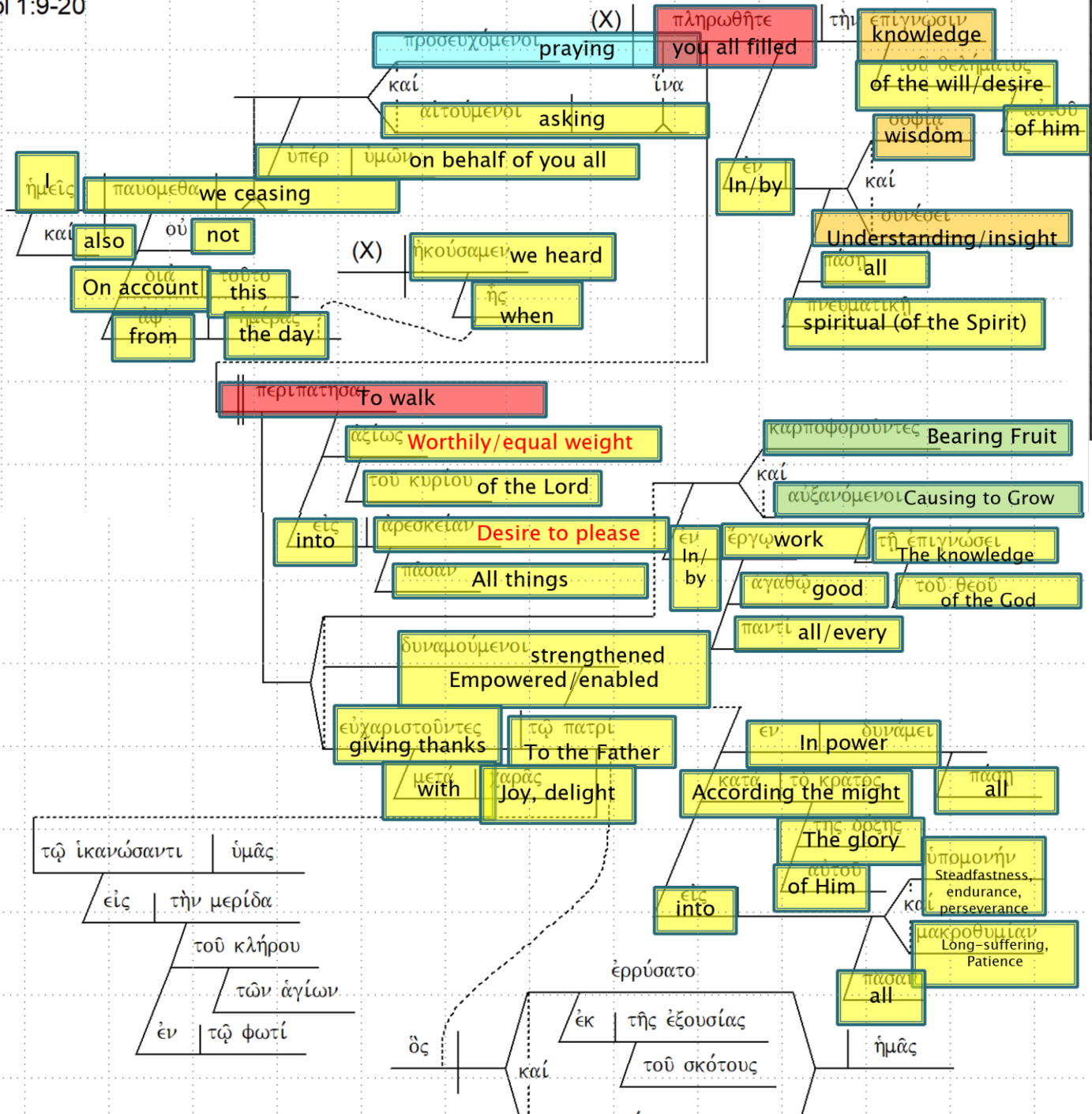
Our Church must be:

- Devoted to Prayer
(Ps. 62, Col. 4:2, 1 Thess. 5:17)
- Praying for each other constantly
(like Paul was praying unceasingly for the Colossians)

in order to be:

1. **Filled** (with God's knowledge, wisdom, understanding)
2. **Walk Worthy** of the Lord
 - a. **Pleasing** Him at all times/all ways
 - b. **Fruitful** in good works/increasing knowledge
 - c. **Strengthened** (all power, all steadfastness)
 - d. **Giving Thanks** to the Father (inheritance)

Colossians 1:9-12 ⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.



Paul in his epistles/letters usually starts with a “grace and peace” salutation, followed by his unceasing personal PRAYER for a particular church or Pastor. Colossians 1:9–12 is a great model prayer to pray for your spouse, family, and church...are you praying for fellow believers to be FILLED (God’s will, wisdom, and spiritual understanding) and to WALK WORTHY of the Lord Jesus (by seeking to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God) so that we are strengthened in all of God’s power and may be steadfast, patient, joyful, and thankful to God for His amazing grace to share in His Kingdom/inheritance of light prepared for us the saints.

List specific things you are praying earnestly & regularly for...

1. Your Spouse
2. Your Children
3. Your Family
4. Your Friends
5. Your Church
6. Your Country
7. Your World
8. Yourself

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

4. The Foundation of God's Gospel

(The GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ's Perfect Life, Sacrificial Death, and Victorious Resurrection)

1. God's Plan of the Gospel – **LOVE (Relationship)**

John 3:16, 17:3, Hebrews 8:10-13 (purpose to know, love, serve, worship God forever)

2. Man's Problem requiring the Gospel – **SIN** (separation, death, Hell)

Romans 3:23, 6:23, Isaiah 59:2

3. God's Provision of the Gospel – **Jesus (Savior & LORD)**

(Jesus' life, death, resurrection for

Imputed righteousness, total forgiveness, and eternal life)

Colossians 2:13-16, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18

4. Man's Participation to receive the Gospel – **Believing** (trusting & relying)

(true belief involves repentance, faith, and LORDSHIP)

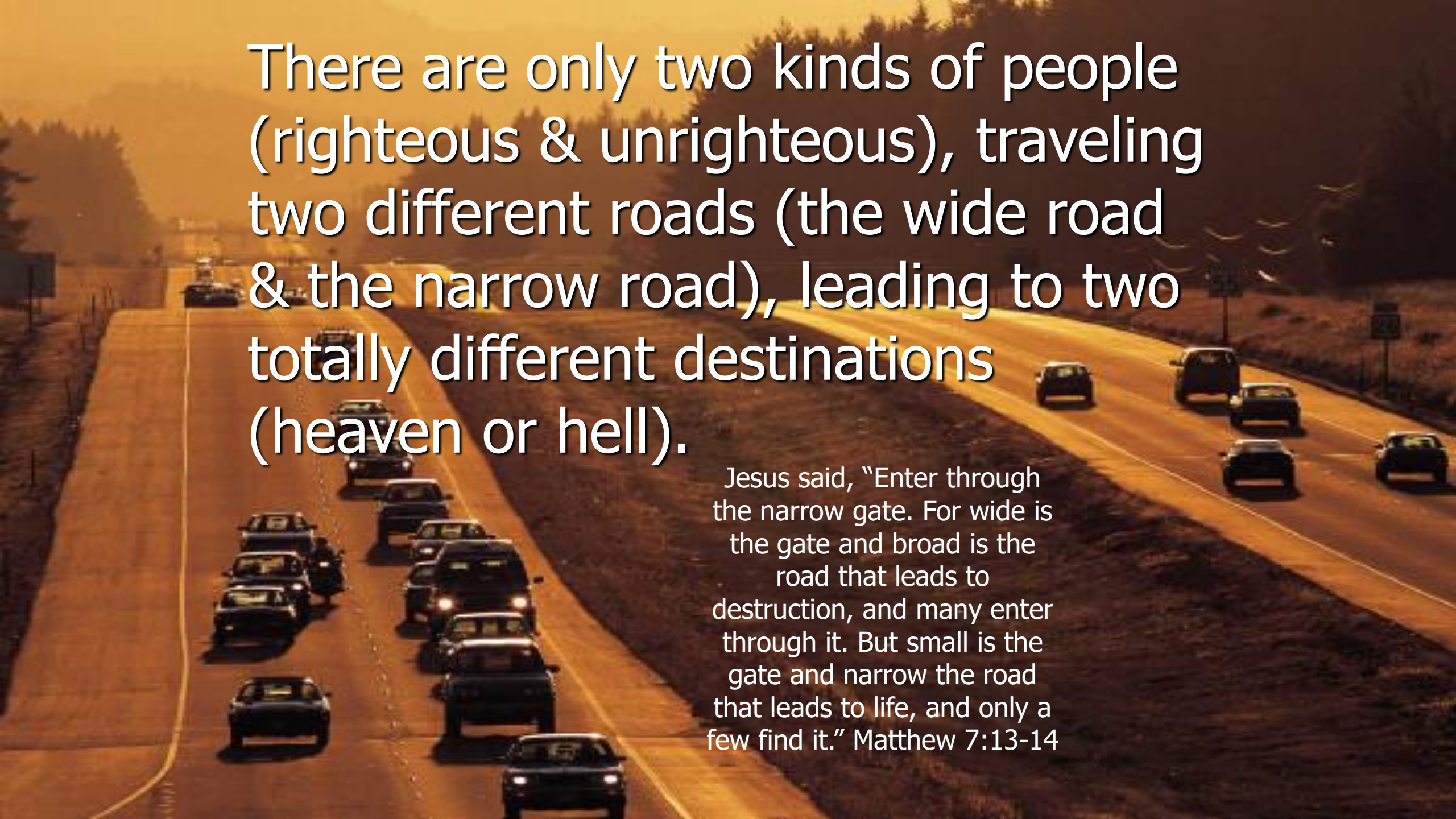
Acts 16:31, 17:30, Romans 10:9-13

5. God's Promise because of the Gospel – **LIFE**

(New life now, Kingdom life soon, Heavenly life forever)

John 10:10, 2 Cor. 5:15-21, Col. 1:13, Rev. 21-22

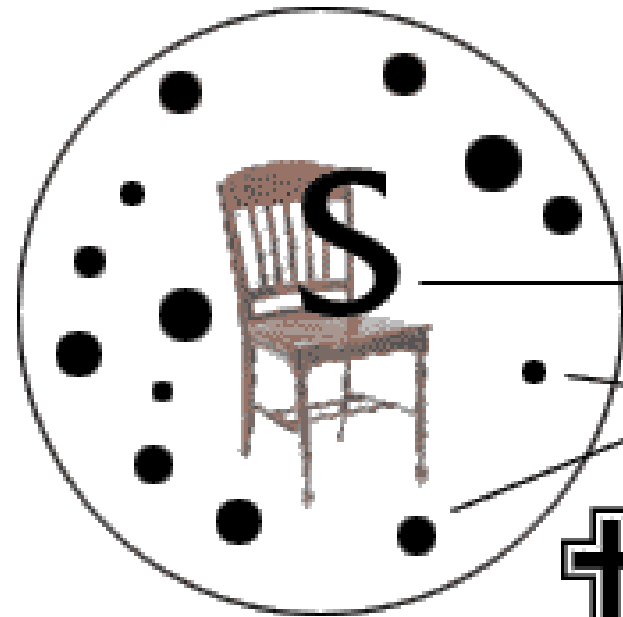
Acts 2:22-36 (The Source of Salvation) ²² "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- ²³ this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. ²⁴ "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. ²⁵ "For David says of Him, 'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. ²⁶ 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE; ²⁷ BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. ²⁸ 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.' ²⁹ "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT *one* OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, ³¹ he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. ³² "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, ³⁵ UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.'" ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified."

A wide, multi-lane highway with many cars driving away from the viewer, set against a hazy, golden background. The road is divided into several lanes, and the cars are spread across them, moving towards the horizon. The overall atmosphere is warm and somewhat somber due to the hazy lighting.

There are only two kinds of people (righteous & unrighteous), traveling two different roads (the wide road & the narrow road), leading to two totally different destinations (heaven or hell).

Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14

THE SELF-DIRECTED LIFE



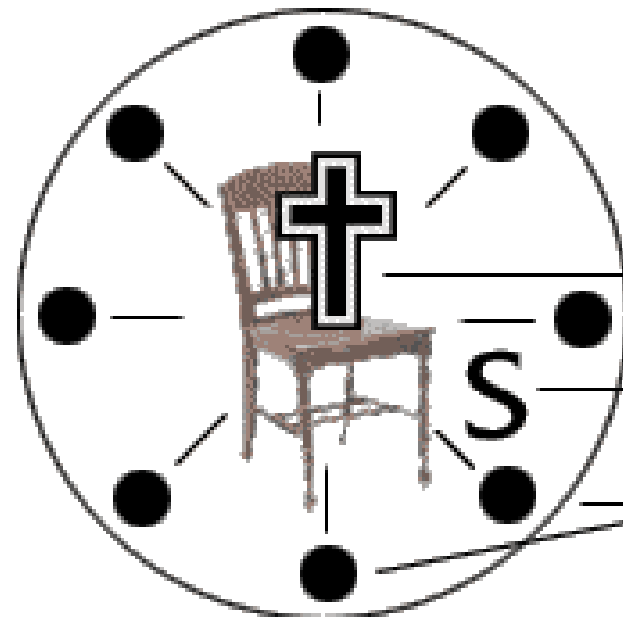
SELF is on the throne

Interests are directed by self, resulting in discord, frustration



Christ is outside the life

THE CHRIST-DIRECTED LIFE



CHRIST is on the throne

Self is yielding to Christ

Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan

The Bible Warns About **False** Gospels, **Fraudulent** works of the Holy Spirit, and **Fake** Versions of Jesus

1. **The False Gospel of NO REPENTANCE** (no change of mind or willingness to turn from sin)
2. **The False Gospel with NO LORDSHIP** (no commitment or willingness to follow Jesus as Lord)
3. **The False Gospel with NO FAITH** (no real belief that is trusting, relying, or depending on Jesus alone for salvation)
4. **The False Gospel of NO CHANGE** (no conversion/born-again, fruits, or progressive holy living by the Holy Spirit)
5. **The False Gospel of NO ASSURANCE** (works salvation that earns or maintains salvation by good deeds)
6. **False Gospel with NO real JESUS** (many Fake Jesus that are imagined or created to be a God of their liking)

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

5. The Foundation of God's Word

(The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil)

Out of truth/doctrine flows life – what we believe directs and determines how we live.

Example of Paul: his teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and perseverance outflowed from His faith and knowledge of Scripture

Example of Timothy: His knowledge of the Scripture (sacred writings) that produced in him wisdom that led him to his salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

For all of us – the Bible (All Scripture) is

1. **Inspired/God Breathed** (lit. theopneustos means exhaled by God) and therefore because it is from God – profitable for:
 - a. Teaching
 - b. Rebuking
 - c. Correcting
 - d. Training in righteousness (right living)
- = **man of God**, adequate, equipped every good work

2 Timothy 3:10-17 ¹⁰ Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Verses on the Roles and Importance of the Bible/Scripture

(2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17)

- **Jesus is The Word - John 1:1-5, 14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- **Jesus fulfilled the Word, will fulfill all the Word - Matthew 5:17-18** ¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
- **The Word Saves - John 8:31-32** ³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
- **The Word Sanctifies - John 17:17** ¹⁷ "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
- **The Word teaches us and provides us Hope - Romans 15:4** ⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.
- **The Word is the Revelation of God to us - Hebrews 1:1-3** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- **The Word convicts and holds us accountable to God - Hebrews 4:12-13** ¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.
- **The Word was written by God through inspired men – O.T. prophets, N.T. apostles - 2 Peter 1:19-21** ¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

The 7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

6. The Foundation of God's Church

(The bride of Christ, the body of Christ, the pillar and support of the TRUTH)

Notice the 4 main things the early church was DEVOTED to:

1. The Apostles **Teaching** (Bible Study – Learning New Testament Doctrine)
2. **Fellowship** (Practicing and Enjoying the “One Anothers”)
3. **Communion** - The Breaking of Bread (The Lord's Supper)
4. **Prayer**

The Outcome of this: (5 S's)

1. **Sense** of awe of what God was doing
2. **Sacrifice** (selling and sharing their possessions to meet each other's needs)
3. **Steadfastness** – day by day with One Passion (one mind)
4. **Sincerity** of heart – house to house, meals together
5. **Salvation** – the Lord was adding to their number day by day new converts

Acts 2:42-47 ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The “One Another” Passages The phrase "one another" is derived from the Greek word allelon which means "one another, each other; mutually, reciprocally." It occurs 100 times in the New Testament. Approximately 59 of those occurrences are specific commands teaching us how (and how not) to relate to one another. Obedience to those commands is imperative. It forms the basis for all true Christian community, and has a direct impact on our witness to the world (John 13:35). In addition to allelon, the Bible uses other words and phrases to instruct us how to relate to others. With that in mind, the following list is not exhaustive, and primarily focuses on the use of allelon.

POSITIVE COMMANDS

Love one another (John 13:34 - This command occurs at least 16x)

Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)

Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)

Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)

Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5)

Accept one another (Romans 15:7)

Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)

Greet one another (Romans 16:16)

Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)

Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)

Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)

Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)

Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)

Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)

Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)

Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)

Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)

Consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)

Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)

Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)

Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)

Comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)

Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)

Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)

Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)

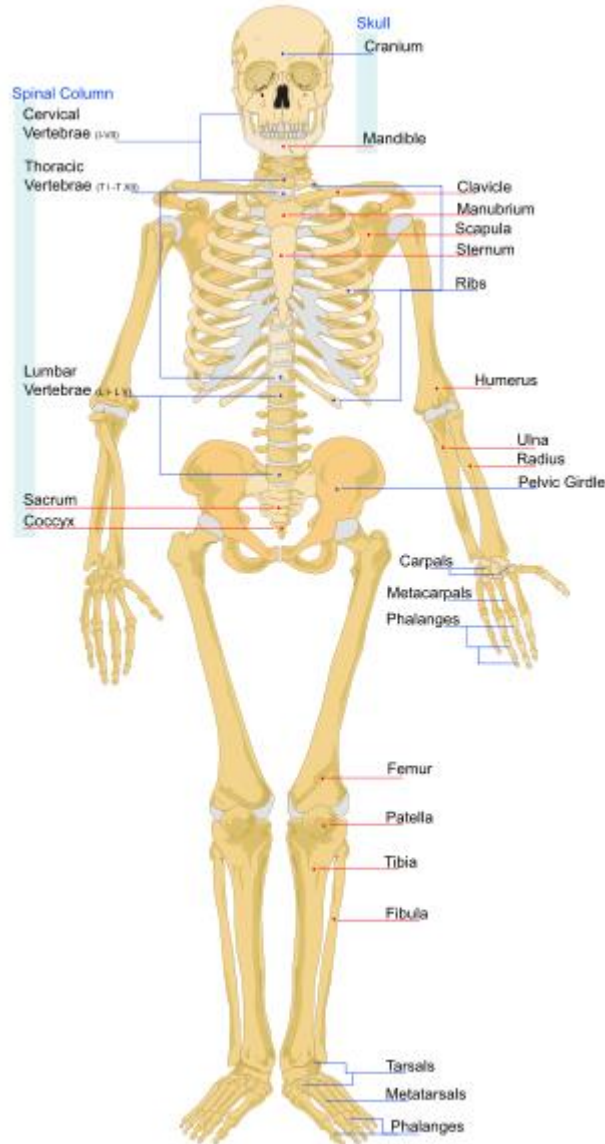
Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)

Pray for one another (James 5:16)

Confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)

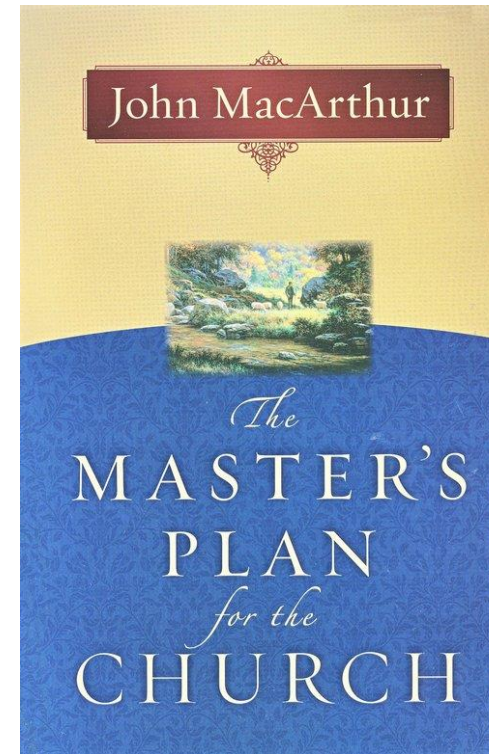
The Anatomy of a Biblical Church

(based on John MacArthur's book "The Master's Plan for the Church")



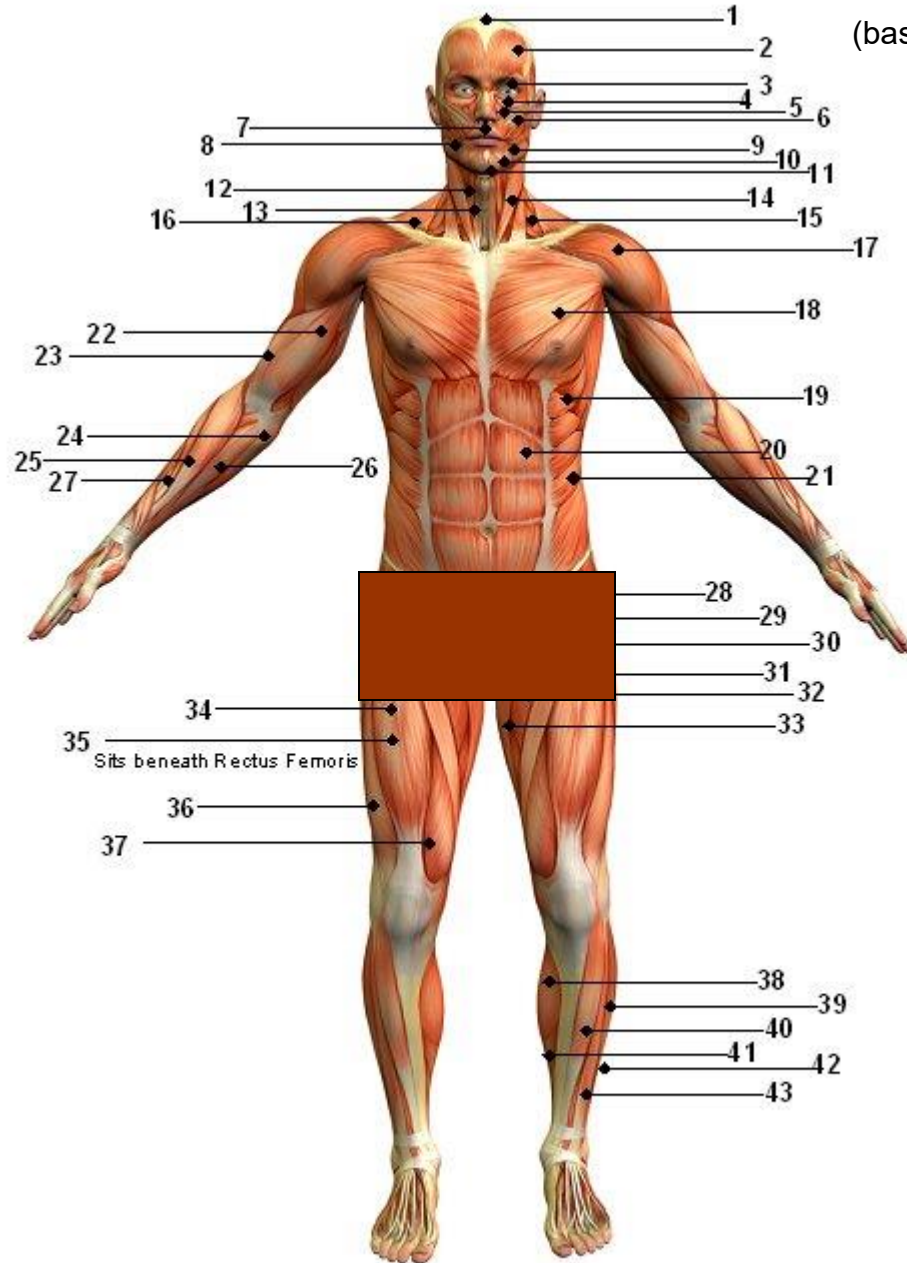
The Skeletal Structure

- A High View of God
- A High View of Scripture
- Sound Doctrine
- Personal Holiness
- Spiritual Authority



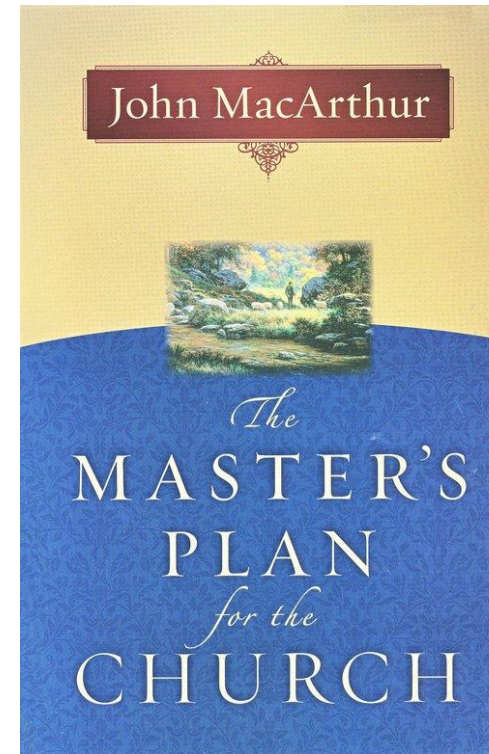
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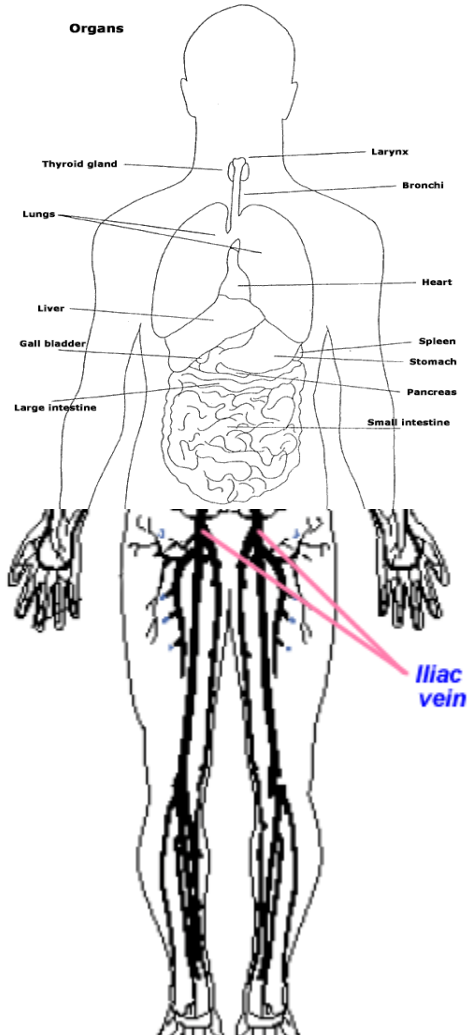
The Muscles

- Preaching/Teaching
- Evangelism/Missions
- Worship
- Prayer
- Discipleship
- Shepherding
- Building Up Families
- Training
- Giving
- Fellowship



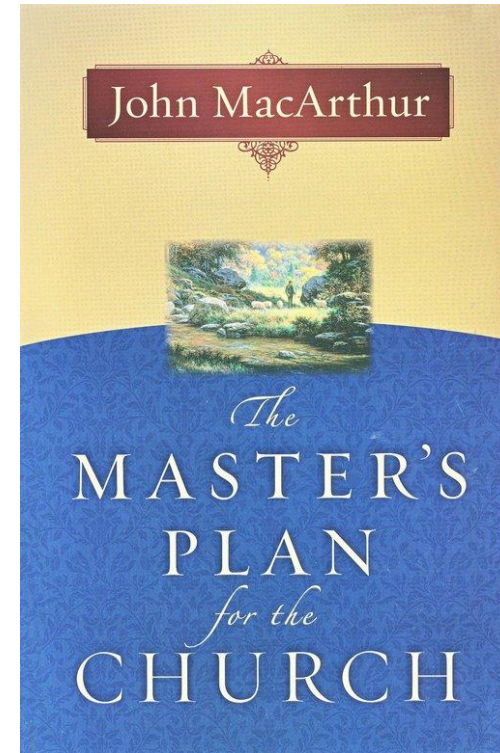
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The Internal Systems

- Obedience
- Humility
- Love
- Unity
- Willingness to Serve
- Joy
- Peace
- Thankfulness
- Self-Discipline
- Accountability
- Forgiveness
- Dependence
- Flexibility
- Desire for Growth
- Faithfulness
- Hope



The Anatomy of a Biblical Church

(based on John MacArthur's book "The Master's Plan for the Church")

The Head



- Jesus Christ our Savior
- Jesus Christ our Shepherd
- Jesus Christ our Sovereign
- Jesus Christ our Sanctifier

Why did God establish the church?

(Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32)

(Ephesians = Ecclesiology (study of the church))

- God's Purpose for the Church – to be the pillar and support of the truth/gospel (1 Tim. 3:15)
- God's Plan/Will for the church – to be holy & blameless before Him in love (Eph. 1:4, 1 Tim 3:15)
- God's Mission for the church (5 E's)
 1. **Equip** /disciple His followers to **MATURITY** - towards EVERY GOOD WORK (Eph. 2:10, 4:12, 2 Tim. 3:17, Heb. 13:21)
 2. **Evangelize** the unbeliever to become true worshippers (1 Cor. 14:24-25)
 3. **Exclaim** /make known the wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10)
 4. **Evaluate** /Judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3).
 5. **Exonerate** /glorify God (Eph. 3:21)
- God's Future for the church – Rapture/Kingdom/Heaven
(John 14:1-3, 1 Thess. 4:13-14, 5:9-10, 1 Cor. 15:51-59)

Is church optional or essential?

- **God Commanded us to be faithful to a local church in Hebrews 10:23-25**
²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
- **Those who truly belong to Christ belong to His church – His body** (1 Cor. 12:27, Eph. 1:22, 2:19, 3:6, 4:25, 5:23-30, Col. 1:18-24, 3:15)
- **The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5, Rev. 19)**
What about those who claim to be believers but don't go to church?
- **A Sign of unbelief is leaving the fellowship of believers altogether (1 John 2:19)**
- **The H.S. guides us into truth and obedience,** – which will always lead towards (not away from) the preaching and teaching Biblical churches, including the practice of all the "one Anothers" commands (1 Tim. 4:12, John 21:15-17, Titus 2:15, 1 Peter 5:2-3, Acts 20:28)

Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Baptism *Identification*

Therefore
go and make disciples
of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching
them to obey everything I have
commanded you. And surely I am with
you always, to the very end of
the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Teaching them to obey everything
I have commanded you

Obedience
Sanctification

Make disciples of all nations

Gospel
Justification

I am with you always - to the end of the age

Kingdom *Glorification*

The CHURCH is ESSENTIAL

Why is church so important?

- God knows we are weak by ourselves, but strong together (**Ecc. 4:9-10**). He has commanded us to meet each others needs (Rom. 12:13, 1 Tim. 5:16, 1 John 3:17), bear each others burdens (**Gal. 6:2, Col. 3:13**), spur/encourage each other on towards love and good deeds (**Heb. 10:24, 1 Thes. 5:11**), serve one another (**Gal. 5:13**), and to pray for on another (**James 5:16, Eph. 6:18**).
- Satan usually tempts and deceives us in isolation (Matthew 4) and vehemently sows deception (**John 8:44, 2 Cor. 11:14, 2 Thes. 2:9-10, Rev. 12:9-10**) disunity (**James 3:13-16**), and discouragement (**Mt. 13:39**) within the church because he is like a roaring lion (**1 Peter 5:8**)
- It is God's will that everyone be protected through submission to spiritual leadership (**Hebrews 13:17, Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23**)

CONCLUSION:

The church is the bride of Christ and part of God's authority structure, body of fellowship, and mouthpiece of the gospel designed to give God glory. Through the church God nourishes us towards optimum spiritual health, protects us, and prepares us to enjoy eternity with him. God designed the church to be a body that truly loves and serves one another like he served and loved us so that we might have a healthy relationship with Him and one another. Thus, the body of Christ is the means for us to enjoy God's provision, protection, and proficiency of God's family and chain of command.

7 Foundations of a Biblical Church:

1. The Foundation of God's Glory (Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God alone) (1 Corinthians 3:4-15, Romans 11:36)
2. The Foundation of God's Son (Jesus our Cornerstone–100% Deity & Humanity)(Colossians 1:13-18,1 Peter 2:2-7)
3. The Foundation of God's Spirit (Prayer – Power, Perspective, Perseverance) (Colossians 1:9-12, 4:2)
4. The Foundation of God's Gospel (The Good News of Jesus Life, Death, & Resurrection = Righteousness, Forgiveness, & Eternal Life IF one is believing in Jesus through repentance, faith, and Lordship) (Acts 2:22-32, Romans 3:20-26)
5. The Foundation of God's Church (The Body & Bride of Christ – the pillar and support of the truth) (Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 3:21, 4:1-16, 5:23-32)
6. The Foundation of God's Word (The Bible/Canon, revelation from God to measure truth from error, right from wrong, good from evil) (2 Timothy 3:10-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 1:1-2, 4:12, Romans 15:4, John 8:32, 17:17)
7. The Foundation of God's Shepherds (Preaching) (1 Timothy 4:12-13, 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Titus 2:15)

Practical Application:

So How Should a Christian choose a church?

What NOT to do... don't use the typical criteria that many/most Christians unknowingly and unbiblically follow: Do I like the Pastor, do I like the music, do I like the building, do I like the programs, do I like the people (I, I, I, I, I = consumer mentality, but rather pray Lord where do YOU want me, where can I and my family best serve YOU and grow in our faith for YOU, not my will but your will be done)

So LOOK for, TEST and EVALUATE a church on the following criteria:

1. Truth/Doctrine – which church is most in line with Scripture and best believes, teaches, and practices the Bible (High View of God/High View of Scripture). Practically the first thing you should do before visiting a church is read their doctrinal statement online or ask for a printed copy of their statement of faith (if they don't have their doctrine as the first thing on online or onsite – not good)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

2. Philosophy of Ministry – before joining a church ask to meet with one of the Pastors/Elders (if they are too busy to meet – not good) and ask them questions about their philosophy of ministry – what's the most important, what their priorities are, and how they go about pursuing/accomplishing them (that will tell you a lot of about them and the church). The priorities should be in line with Acts 2:42:

- **Doctrine** (Declaring God's truth by preaching through books of the Bible learn and live the whole counsel of God's will)
- **Worship** (Presenting ourselves before God with sincere hearts to gratefully and passionately glorify the One true Triune God)
- **Fellowship** (Practicing of the One Anothers with Selfless Love, Compassion, Kindness, Service to others)
- **Prayer** (Seeking earnestly and regularly God's Power, Perspective, Perseverance in our lives & ministry)
- **Gospel** (Sharing God's Gracious Plan of salvation with concern for the Eternity of all people by faithful and fruitful evangelism)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

3. Personal Example/Biblical Qualifications of the Elders and Deacons.

Also ask them about their personal relationship/walk with the Lord - what I call the Big 5:

1. Their relationship with God (devotional life)
2. Their relationship with their spouse (married life)
3. Their relationship with their children (family life)
4. Their relationship with their sheep/people (church life)
5. Their relationship with the lost (evangelism life)

(If they don't have a healthy/vibrant relationship with God neither will the church...if they don't Biblically lead/manage their own homes well they won't manage the church any better). The spiritual health of the church will usually resemble the health of the Pastor and his family unless the church is apathetic and rebellious against his preaching/example.

1 Timothy 3:5 ⁵ (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

4. Holy Living/Progressive Sanctification and Obedience of the Congregation

Do you see in the church as a whole...

1. The People regularly **WITNESSING** /sharing their faith, evangelizing the lost (new people being saved, baptized, and added to the church – spiritual multiplication/reproduction - Acts 1:8, 2:41,47 5:14, 6:1,7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5, 19:20)
2. The People regularly **PRAYING** for the lost, praying for each other, seeking God's will - His power, His perspective, His perseverance – Acts 1:14, 2:42, 6:4)
3. The People regularly **FELLOWSHIPPING**, practicing the one anothers, and enjoying their closest friendships within the church – Acts 2:42, Hebrews 13:16.
4. The People regularly **STUDYING** and growing in their knowledge and practice of the Holy Scriptures privately (personal devotions) and corporately (Congregation, Class, Cell, Comrade, and Christian settings) (Goal to learn and live out the truth of God's Word – Acts 6:4, 2 Peter 3:18).
5. The People progressively **OBEYING** the commands of Jesus in the N.T. (Acts 5:29, Mt. 28:18-20) so that others can see a growing Christlikeness/holiness/difference in their marriage, family, conduct at work, service/contribution within the church, and outreach/Christian witness to the unsaved world around them. (Goal to be rounding the bases – 1st base/conversion, 2nd base/baptism, 3rd base/membership & maturity, Home base – death, rapture, Kingdom, Heaven)

How Should YOU choose a church?

So look for, test and evaluate a church on the following criteria:

5. Their overall goals, motives, and mission statement

(how do they define success, who are they trying to please, who are what are they striving for)

Do you see in the church as a whole...

1. A Focus on man vs a focus on God
2. A Focus on money vs Christian maturity
3. A Focus on buildings/facilities vs the true temples (people's souls that last forever)
4. A Focus on success by what man sees/thinks/wants (numbers, buildings, programs, popularity, influence) vs what God sees/thinks/wills (new people saved, new people baptized, new people disciplined/equipped towards Christlike maturity)
5. A Focus on the Culture vs a Focus on Scripture
6. A Focus on the Temporary vs a Focus on the Kingdom/Eternity
7. A Focus on Self vs a focus on the Savior

SO WHAT?

Application



Ephesians 5:22-30 ²² Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body.