



Jesus our foundation – Pastor Mark Ramirez 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

Summary: A good foundation is essential for the integrity of any building. The ability of a house to weather storms and the relentless powers of decay is important and spiritually Jesus Christ is the only foundation that will stand the storms of our life as we are saved by it and build upon that foundation with precious materials as unto the Lord.

1. Introduction.

- a. **1 Corinthians 3:9-11** 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.
 - i. When Paul planted a church of believers he did so based only foundation that has been laid for all mankind that is upon the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 1. So too in Corinth, and in this corrective letter Paul brings a warning:
- b. 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.
 - i. This morning I want to first talk about the foundation of our faith and then the works that are built upon that right foundation.
What is a foundation? By definition, Merriam Webster tells us:
 - ii. It is an underlying base or support, a whole masonry substructure of a building.
 1. “this old house” - *A proper foundation does more than just hold a house above ground. it also keeps out moisture, insulates against the cold, and resists movement of the earth around it. Oh, and one more thing: It should last forever.*
- c. By definition in the Greek – *themelios*.
 - i. a laid down foundation like a building.
 1. Greek metaphor: Beginnings or first principles.
 - ii. M.W. 2nd definition - **a basis** (such as a tenet, principle, or axiom) upon which something stands or is supported.
- d. Our verse clearly tells us that Jesus Christ is our foundation.
 - i. A foundation that has been established based upon His person and His work.
- e. Jesus is the author and finisher of our salvation, laying down the principles of all doctrine for us to build upon given to us through His word.
 - i. This foundation must include the **deity of Christ and his humanity**, He is holy and without sin, who became a man in order to suffer for and save man from their sins.
 1. This foundation is what I call the Gospel, the good news for sinful man.

- f. So, let's talk about the importance of this foundation of which Jesus laid down for us which will never need to be deconstructed (critiqued or criticized) nor reconstructed (rebuild or modernize).
 - i. It is a foundation of God.

2. The Essence of His foundation.

- a. **It was prepared from eternity.**
 - i. Christ our foundation goes back to the beginning beyond Genesis before the foundation of the world.
 - 1. Before anything was ever created, in eternity past.
 - ii. Ephesians 1:3-5 **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.**
 - 1. In order for God to have chosen us **"before the foundation of the world"** there had to be a plan of redemption already designed that included the son of God before the foundation or the creation of the world.
 - a. before God said **"let there be light"** there had to be a spiritual foundation established.
- b. Gods' details of Redemption for mankind were planned out.
 - i. In Revelation 13:8 John speaks of the **"Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"**
 - 1. God had our transformation to holiness in view before His creative work.
 - a. Now, the Bible tells us don't try and figure it all out,
 - ii. **Illustration:** Pastor Chuck Smith, Gods sovereignty and man's responsibility so much so that he got caught up with the **paralysis of analysis**, but God spoke to him that he didn't need to but just believe what is written in His word.
 - 1. **Romans 11:33** **O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!**
 - a. **Deuteronomy 29:29** Just believe what Gods word says.
 - iii. God's eternal foundation being laid down in His son Jesus before time is also seen in
 - 1. **1 Peter 1:19-20** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. **20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world** but was manifest in these last times for you. and
 - a. **1 Corinthians 2:7** (NLT) No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began.
- c. Who would want to mess with His foundation and restructure that which was laid, by God, before the beginning of time? Some try.

3. The revealing of His foundation.

- a. **It was made known by revelation of Scripture.**
 - i. After God created the world and mankind the foundation built upon His son began to be unveiled throughout His written word.
 1. Romans 16:25–27 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.
- b. This revelation starts in **Genesis 3:15** after the fall of man in what is known as the “Protoevangelium” = **The first mention, the first anticipation of the Gospel.**
 - i. **Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”
 1. The seed born of a woman.
 - ii. All of the teachings concerning His person and work are dependent upon the foundation of His virgin birth.
- c. This revelation of Christ’ foundation is throughout the Bible,
 - i. **Jesus testified in Luke 24:25-27** Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.
- d. It is this foundation known as the Gospel that all mankind needs to build upon.
 - i. all other philosophies, faiths and thoughts of the world and lifestyles are built upon **wrong foundations**.

4. The laying of His foundation.

- a. **This foundation was finally laid or fulfilled at Jesus death.**
 - i. Jesus who came as prophesied, being our right and true foundation—a tried stone, a precious cornerstone of that true foundation was finally poured out and laid down for us on the cross in **His death and resurrection**.
- b. If we don’t begin with and build upon this true Foundation which is laid by Christ Jesus than it will affect our whole being our spiritual and carnal life, Our salvation, and our outlook in the world.
 - i. **Isaiah 28:16** Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.
- c. The cornerstone literally means at the tip of the angle.
 - i. It refers to the capstone or binding stone that holds the whole structure together, to bind the other stones, the foundation stone,
 1. the most important stone, the one on which its stability depended.

- d. Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones says that any foundation in life that is not Jesus Christ is doomed to fail. It is only Christ who can take away sin and make one a child of God.
 - i. The greatest tragedy is that many reject Christ as their hope and turn to everything else that is vain and passing away. Christ calls His people to turn away from the world and trust solely in His work on the cross for salvation.
- e. Jesus said so clearly in Matthew 7:24-27 “**Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: (Luke 6- who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.) 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. (foundation) 26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: (false foundation) 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”**
 - i. All other foundations are like sinking sand, but Jesus Christ is God’s appointed means of salvation as the only sure and steady foundation for all who believe.
 - 1. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- f. Now that we established what is the true foundation from it beginning to its fulfillment the question we must ask is:
 - i. **How are building upon it in our walk with the Lord.**

5. Building on that foundation.

- a. There is a Latin **motto** says, *Nisi Dominus Frusta*.
 - i. It comes from Psalm 127a **Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it.**
 - 1. In Latin the motto means *Without the Lord, Frustration.*
 - ii. It is the motto of the city of Edinburgh, Scotland, appearing on its crest, and is affixed to the city’s official documents.
 - 1. But it’s one thing if it’s on a crest or document and another thing if it’s **lived out** from the heart.
 - iii. We have a role in this, we are God’s fellow workers, We must be at the construction site helping to build Gods church.
 - 1. And as Paul wrote “Let each one take heed how he builds” because One day a building inspection will take place.
- b. **1 Corinthians 3:12-15** 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation (Jesus Christ and Him crucified) with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,
 - i. If you were to erect a building in Fairfax, you will have to comply with building codes to ensure a safe structure.
 - 1. well God has His own codes for us to comply with.
 - ii. We have established the foundation to build upon now it’s time to refer to the bible to see how God would want us to build.
 - 1. In serving God and building the church there are biblical guidelines to follow.
 - a. God evaluates the motive behind the work, as well as the work itself.

- iii. We must choose the materials that are available to us: gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw
 - 1. It's our choice what kind of building we build.
 - c. Paul is very careful to instruct us 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.
 - i. God will reveal the quality of the work, this is not what determines our salvation, this revealing will take place at the bema seat of Christ.
 - 1. Where the believer in Christ will receive our rewards. Crowns of which we will lay them at the feet of our Lord.
 - d. 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.
 - i. Jesus will judge the motives of our hearts (attitudes/ cause/strategies- of our heart) in the service/ ministry we did were they done in an unworthy manner on earth and At City Gates.
 - 1. Even though the unworthy materials are burned up, the foundation upon which we built upon, Jesus Christ and Him crucified, is still standing and that is what guarantees our salvation the greater work that Christ has laid for us on Calvary.
6. **Closing:** A good foundation is essential for the integrity of any building. The ability of a house to weather storms and the relentless powers of decay, is dependent on the quality of its foundation.
- a. Spiritually, Jesus Christ is the only foundation of the Christian faith. He is the only foundation that will stand the storms of time and the eternal judgments of God.
 - i. It is upon His foundation that we are saved not by works but by grace, yet we are saved for works as we build upon that foundation serving others, making disciples and that with precious materials of our heart as unto the Lord.



Discussion and Application Questions

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 Jesus Our Foundation

Foundation definition: sub - structure of a building.

1. What is the foundation you are building your life on as the temple of God? (Money? Security? Relationships? Fear? Work?)
2. What needs to change in order for your foundation to be Jesus Christ and only Jesus Christ?
3. How does one build on this foundation? How are you building on this foundation?
4. What riches have you gleaned this week from the depths of the riches of the knowledge of God? (Roman's 11:33)
5. What experience have you had as a "pioneer" and what did you learn about building up the church?
6. What experience have you had as a "settler" in a church and what did you learn about building up the church?
7. This week in our Exodus study we are asked how we are a part of the structure of the church? Discuss ways you are a part of the structure of the church and ways you can be a part of the structure of the church.
8. What are ways you can expound the things of Jesus Christ in your home, workplace, or with neighbors?
9. What can help you remember one day there will be a building inspection? (For more on the building inspection read 2 Cor 5:9-11 & Romans 14:7-13)