

We Perish for Lack of Knowledge:
Return to Elementary School
Part 1
August 26, 2018

I **SLIDE** Knowledge

A) Key Scriptures

- 1) **Proverbs 29:18 (NIV)** ¹⁸ Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.
- 2) **Hosea 4:6 (NIV)** ⁶ my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

B) **SLIDE Hebrews 6:1-2 (NIV)** ¹ Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

- 1) As I was preparing to move to the next topic, the Lord brought me back to this passage
- 2) If these truths are elementary truths, that makes them elemental (essential, primary)
- 3) So, I felt the Lord say we were to revisit these foundational truths before moving on

C) David and the Ark

1) Moving the Ark

- a) **SLIDE Exodus 25:12-15 (NIV)** ¹² Cast four gold rings for [the Ark] and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. ¹³ Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. ¹⁴ Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the chest to carry it. ¹⁵ The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed.

b) **1 Chronicles 15:14-15 (NIV)** ¹⁴ So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁵ And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the LORD.

2) **SLIDE** David moving the Ark

a) **1 Chronicles 13:5 (NIV)** ⁵ So David assembled all the Israelites, from the Shihor River in Egypt to Lebo Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath Jearim.

b) **1 Chronicles 13:7 (NIV)** ⁷ They moved the ark of God from Abinadab's house on a new cart, with Uzzah and Ahio guiding it.

c) **1 Chronicles 13:8-10 (NIV)** ⁸ David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might before God, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, cymbals and trumpets.

⁹ When they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, because the oxen stumbled. ¹⁰ The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God.

II **SLIDE** Returning to Elementary School

A) **Hebrews 6:1-3 (NIV)** ¹Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ²instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³And God permitting, we will do so.

B) **SLIDE** Leave

1) Let go, leave, to disregard, leave behind, dismiss, divorce, cancel, pardon, remit, forgive, abandon.

2) Paul is not saying these teachings are not important

- 3) *Leave* does not imply ceasing to believe in elementary truths or to regard them as important, but leaving them "as a builder leaves his foundation in erecting his building"
Word Studies in the New Testament.
- 4) Just as with building any structure, we lay a good foundation, which is a must for what is to come later
- 5) **SLIDE** Millennium Tower - residential high-rise in San Francisco
 - a) Completed in 2008, with 58 stories and every amenity possible
 - b) Units ranged from \$1.6 to \$10
 - c) However, residents have since noticed the building is leaning
 - d) To date, the building has sunk 17 inches and tilted 14 inches
 - e) Would you want to purchase a home in that building?
- 6) **SLIDE** Paul is saying that we are to lay THE solid foundation - not A solid foundation
- 7) When we do, we are to leave that foundation behind and build on that foundation by moving on to solid food
- 8) The only true, solid foundation is the One laid by Jesus Christ
- 9) One God, One Body of Christ, One Foundation
- 10) **SLIDE 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 (NIV)** ¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴ If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

C) **SLIDE** Elementary

- 1) These "elementary" teachings comprise the only foundation that will last the shaking, the attacks, and the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit
- 2) "Elementary" does not mean simple
- 3) It means the first, the beginning, the first in a series, the origin, power
- 4) These truths are not simple; instead, they are powerful because they come first
- 5) These truths are the origin of our faith, our relationship with Christ, our walk with Jesus
- 6) These truths cannot and will not ever change so that what Moses built still stands, what Paul built still applies, so that what we read in the Bible still is truth
- 7) If we ever stray from these original, powerful truths, what we build will not stand

D) **SLIDE** Teachings about Christ

- 1) Literally "doctrine"
- 2) Christ's message, teachings, conversations, spoken and written word, commands
- 3) This is the key
- 4) We are to lay a foundation based upon the doctrines about the Christ not on the doctrines of man

E) **SLIDE** Go on to maturity

- 1) Carry, endure, produce, bring, lead, apply
- 2) Thus, we are to begin with these truths, for they comprise the foundation upon which we build everything else
- 3) Then, we are to leave them by moving on and leaving the milk for the solid food
- 4) We are to go on and build so that we spread the Kingdom of God
- 5) We are to learn these truths so we can feel safe and go on to do what we want

- 6) Paul states that we are to be established in these truths so we can endure and apply them and so move on to maturity
 - 7) We are not to learn these truths so we can stop and rest on that foundation
 - 8) "Going on" refers to a lifetime of serving, learning, building, and maturing
 - 9) **SLIDE Hebrews 5:12-14 (NIV)** ¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.
- F) If we do not lay a good foundation, then what we build will collapse
- 1) Without this solid foundation in our lives, all we build will perish
 - 2) Without this solid foundation, Cornerstone will not survive
 - 3) If we ever stray from even one of these elementary truths, then our work will not survive the fire that will come
 - 4) We do not lay this foundation so Cornerstone will survive
 - 5) We lay this foundation so the work of the Kingdom will survive

III What are these Biblical truths?

A) Surveys

- 1) When asked about fundamental truths of Christianity, people list everything from belief in God to the virgin birth to praying
- 2) 86% of all Christians believe that believing in God is essential but only 35% believe going to church is essential
- 3) 86% believe in God but only 28% believe serving is essential
- 4) All Christians surveying placed Believing in God as the number 1 essential truth
- 5) But those same Christians place Reading the Bible as number 6 and attending church number 9
- 6) So, what type of foundation are we laying?

B) **SLIDE** The Bible

- 1) Repentance from acts that lead to death
- 2) Faith in God
- 3) Baptisms (plural)
- 4) Laying on of hands
- 5) Resurrection of the dead
- 6) Eternal judgment

C) If a body of believers begins messing with these truths, then they will lay a poor foundation that will lead them into error

- 1) Repentance
 - a) *A change of mind*
 - b) *Change from evil to good or from good to better*
 - c) *not necessary - God is a loving God and will accept us the way we are*
- 2) Faith in God - *faith is faith no matter what we choose to call God*
- 3) Baptisms - *notice, this is plural*
- 4) Laying on of hands - *not necessary anymore*
- 5) Resurrection of the dead - *holding pens in the sky, repeated attempts*
- 6) Eternal judgment - *can't see it and so people live like there is no final judgment*

D) **SLIDE 1 Peter 2:2-3 (NIV)** ² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.