



Introduction to the Foundation Series

The Lord Jesus Christ is making disciples and building His church. Being the wise maker and builder that He is, foundations are important to Him. He will not make or build on a weak or broken foundation.

Furthermore, the house that stands in the coming storm is the house that is built on a firm foundation (Luke 6:47-49). As we participate with Jesus in making and building, it is imperative that we consider the foundation we are attempting to build on.

The size and depth of a foundation determines the quality of the house that is built upon it. If the foundation of your house is 12ft x12ft, you are going to have a very small house. Granted, if your foundation was deep enough, you could build a tall house; but, how long would it stand in the storm?

Build on a thin foundation, and your house will simply float away when the floods come. The wise man builds on a foundation that is sunk deep in the ground; anchored firmly on the rock.

The Lost Foundations

Many have had much to say about the pitiable state of the Western church. Many are doing much to alleviate the issues of reduced participation and passion. We have seen some success; but, on the whole, the church of North America and Europe is in crisis; and the crisis is spreading.

This series intends to address a major cause of our deterioration: The neglect and loss of Biblical foundations. Take the elementary principles of Hebrews 6 for example:

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. Hebrews 6:1-

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The writer of Hebrews challenges his readers to move on from the elementary principles, calling them "foundation". Clearly, his assumption is that they understand, believe and are living out of these principles.

Recently, my desire for a house that stands in the storm (also, Matthew 7:24-27) led me to search out the meaning of each principle. I soon recognized that there were two or three that I did not understand at all. I had not learned them as a babe in Christ.

The ones that I assumed to know turned out to be more than I thought. I discovered that even the elementary principles were lost on me. I began to wonder how many other followers of Jesus Christ were in the same condition. Let me test you a little bit:

Do you know what "dead works" are?

Why "faith toward God" and not "faith in God"?

How many baptisms are there in the New Testament?

What are the purposes of laying on hands? What is the warning about that?

When does the resurrection of the dead occur?

Is eternal judgment an event, or is it "eternal"?

See what I mean? Now, as one who cares about the strength of your house, let me ask you: In light of these elementary principles, how strong is your foundation?

If you find yourself discouraged, frustrated, or even angry about this: Remember, our battle is not against flesh and blood. Our teachers were, and are, godly men and women with good hearts. Perhaps they assumed our foundations were secure and complete. Perhaps no one taught them the elementary principles.

One thing is sure: Our enemy, Satan, has been patiently and systematically deceiving us. In league with our flesh and the world, he has methodically undermined authority in the foundations, and distracted us from our inspection and protection of them.

It is time we struck back!

Back to the Basics

The elementary principles of Hebrews 6 are not the only foundations that the church has neglected and lost. In fact, there are a number of basic foundational elements that are in need of our inspection. For example:

Who and what is the Biblical story really about; and what does that mean for us?

How are we to relate to the LORD? Has this changed over time?

What is the doctrine of Jesus Christ; and how are we to search it out?

What is the fullness of the gospel that Jesus came preaching; that the apostles so passionately defended?

What are the major events and processes of the New Covenant; and how are they related?

Why did Jesus encourage us to first count the cost? What is that cost?

As you can see, these are some big ticket items. There is no way for us to search out each of these (and the elementary principles) in depth, in a reasonable time. Thankfully, that is not the Lord's intention in this series.

Purpose and Encouragement

The primary purpose of this series is to encourage foundation inspection, discovery and the beginnings of repair. Jesus Christ, as the builder of His church, is inviting you to join Him in this work. His invitation is providential. Your acceptance is critical to the re-establishment of strong foundations.

Furthermore, the world in which we live is in desperate need of houses that will stand in the storms of life; and "the storm" that is coming soon. Our hope is that God will use this series to deepen and expand your foundation for the days ahead; and for the people He has placed in your spheres of influence and care.

For some, the consideration of such things may be overwhelming. To you, I say: Take heart! God has been mercifully and graciously waiting for you to arrive at this point in your journey with His Son.

Commit your way Him; trust also in Him; and He will bring it to pass. God is not looking for strong or learned men and women. He is looking for those that will surrender to Him, and trust Him to use them solely for His glory and kingdom.

I firmly believe that you are one whom God has called to this journey. I am blessed to join you in it. Together, in Christ, we will discover – and be transformed by – the lost foundations.

Humbly yours and forever His,

Rob