

## IS YOUR FOUNDATION SURE?

### PRAYER

Scripture: Isa. 28:16 & Matt. 16:18

Jesus had asked His disciples, 'who do men say that I am?' He received a variety of answers, some said that He was John the Baptist, others Elias, others said that He was Jeremiah and others said that He was simply one of the prophets. Then Jesus brought the question up close and personal, 'who do you say that I am.' Peter replied, "thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Jesus told Peter in so many words, 'you're right. And upon this rock will I build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'

"Upon this rock," what did that mean? The rock that Jesus was speaking of was Himself. The rock was the statement that Peter had made, the statement that Jesus is 'the Christ, the son of the Living God.' Now the question can be asked, 'why would Jesus be referred to as a rock.' Anyone who is a builder or anyone who has ever had anything built knows the answer to this. Because anyone who is going to build anything knows that the first thing that they need is a firm foundation.

To give you an illustration of what God means by this: **turn to Matt. 7:24-27 "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.**

**And every one that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand; and the rain descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house: and it fell and great was the fall of it."**

In this illustration God talks about two men, He said that both men have decided to build a house. One built his house on top of a firm foundation, on a rock. The other built his house on sand. Notice that the same circumstances occurred in both of their lives. The rains came, sort of like the rain last Sunday. But this rain didn't stop, it just kept raining and raining, until the rivers overflowed and the streets flooded. That wasn't all, as the rain fell and the area was flooded, there was also a roaring, howling wind. A wind so strong that it was shaking everything in its path. What do you think happened to these two houses. (describe softness of sand, erosion; firmness of rock – comments - H.S.) One collapsed but the other remained standing because it was built on a firm, strong foundation.

Now this is what Jesus is talking about when He said, 'upon this rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' There are two things that God wants you to realize from this statement. The first is that the church that God is talking about is not merely a building, the church is made up of you and me. We know that God tells us over and over again in Scripture, that Jesus is the 'head' of the church and we are the body. God is letting us know this morning that not only is the 'church' to be built upon this Rock but our very lives as well. The second thing is that the rain, floods and wind that Jesus is talking about are the storms of life. So, Jesus is saying, that when the storms of life come, and believe me – they will come, you must make sure that you have built your life on 'the' rock. If you have not built your life rooted and grounded firmly on the rock, the storms of life will destroy you!

That's why the title to our sermon this morning is "Is your foundation sure?" Or in other words 'Are you building your lives and your dreams on Jesus the Christ.' What is the foundation that you are building your life on? What is the foundation that you are staking your future on? If you are building on any other foundation than our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, you are building on sinking sand! The world that we live in today

is 'shaky and volatile' to say the least. The things that people have been putting all of their faith and trust in are slowly slipping away. The economy is in a mess for so many people. (Prayerfully, those of us who go by the Name of Christ realize that our faith is not in the economy but our faith is in our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ! Amen & Amen!)

What are the things that we must do to build our lives on the 'Rock?' What do we need to do to make sure that our foundation is sure; not only for ourselves but for our children as well. The first thing is a 'no brainer' but I will have you turn to it anyway. **Turn to Phil. 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."**

So what is the first thing that you must do to build your life on the 'Rock?' You must have bowed you knee to the LORDSHIP of Jesus. (comments – H.S.) Secondly, you must confess with your mouth that He is Lord over your life. (comments – H.S.)

But there is something else that must be done with this tongue of ours. **Turn to: Ps. 17:3 (NIV) "Though you probe my heart and examine me at night, though you test me, you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin."** Wow! (comments – H.S.) We have previously established the fact that testing and trials are going to come. Some trials will be of our own making, but other trials will be designed by God to test and prove your faith. (comments – H.S.) But in order to make our foundation sure, we must determine within our hearts and minds that we will not sin against God with our tongues. How do we do that? By not allowing the trials of life to make us bitter so that all we do is spew venom out of our mouths. (comments – H.S.)

Remember in our initial text Jesus said that the way that one built His life on 'the' rock, was by hearing His Word and doing His Word. I need for you to see this in an entirely

different light. **Turn to John 12:25 “He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.”** There is a word for what Jesus is doing here, but I can't think of it. Jesus says that if we 'love' our life, we will lose it. But if we 'hate' our life in this world, we will keep it for eternity. Now there is a problem here, because I love my life. I love being your Pastor, I love being a teacher, etc. So, am I wrong? Of course not! God is talking about if I love this life and the people and things in it more than I love Him, that I will lose it all. (My foundation would not be sure.) But if I do and acquire the things of life BECAUSE I love Him and want to use them to promote the kingdom of God; then my life won't stop here when I die. But it will go on even throughout eternity. Amen!

Why do I say that? **Turn to our final Scripture for today: Gal. 6:8 “For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”** Do you see what this text says? If you spend your life living just for the flesh, living just for what feels/taste good to you; your life will be destroyed. But if you spend your life sowing to the Spirit... You say 'wait a minute Pastor, how do I sow to the Spirit? Is that talking about coming to church, Bible study, paying my tithes and offering? My answer is, 'Yes, it means that. But it means so much more.' Living a life sowing to the Spirit, means living a life of love!!! Love of God first and foremost and love of your family and neighbors as yourself. (comments – H.S.) Can you imagine what this world would be like, if we lived a life of love?

Remember, the title to this sermon is “Is Your Foundation Sure?” I pray that it is. Because Jesus is the Rock of our salvation and all other ground is sinking sand! Thank you Jesus!

PRAYER

INVITATIONAL HYMN