

CHECK YOUR FOUNDATION

Matt. 7: 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

16 "**You will know them by their fruits**. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?

17 "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

19 "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

21 "**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 "And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you**'; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

24 "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:**

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.**

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:**

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.**" (Emphasis mine)

JESUS, the greatest teacher who ever lived, was always using the plain, common, ordinary things of life to teach people the great truths of God. He used, fish, bread, water, a seed, yeast and other simple things that people were familiar with in order to have them identify with the great principle that He was teaching. In the above scripture He was issuing a very strong warning about the importance of laying a foundation and building on your foundation. Anyone who has invested a large sum of money into a home only to have the foundation fail or to sink can appreciate the importance of having a SOLID foundation.

In a local town many homes during the past several years were built upon black farmland. The soil was really not fit for building on without proper preparation. No one knew this or at least did not tell anyone and after a few years during a really hot summer hundreds of foundations began to crack. Many hundreds of thousands of dollars had to be spent to try and repair the foundations. Many families lost large sums of money in repair bills and in investments, as they had to sell their homes at depressed prices. I personally looked at one home that was only four to five years old and had originally sold for \$170,000. The foundation had been repaired at a cost of several thousand dollars and the owner was now trying to sell for a mere \$80,000.

In Corpus Christi, Texas back in the early seventies an entire subdivision of homes sank into the ground two to three feet because the developer had built on top of what used to be the city's garbage dump. The soil in the land fill area was not properly prepared and after a few years the weight of the houses and the combination of unstable soil caused many houses to sink into the ground and to be abandoned.

You see we are all builders. We may not completely recognize it but from the very first day we begin life we start laying foundations and building our lives. As we grow and become more aware and responsible for our actions God begins to show us what we need to do in order to lay a strong, eternal foundation and to enjoy a peaceful, joyful and abundant life. Today many lives are ruined, wasted, destroyed and lost because people have not listened to Gods word and applied it to their daily living.

Jesus warned that a proper foundation is absolutely essential for stability in our lives. He warned us that there would be many false prophets, teachers and false doctrines offering false hopes to unsuspecting souls. These unscrupulous deceivers will be used of the evil one to have people lay a foundation and build a building that will not stand up in the storms of life and will eventually lead them to great destruction, the eternal loss of their souls.

There are many false and unstable sand foundations that are being used by people today. There is the foundation of education, the foundation of religion, the foundation of philosophy, the foundation of science, the foundation of success, fame, fortune, popularity etc. The Word of God declares, "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. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 3: 10) According to these words and the words of Jesus, there is only one foundation that is "**the Rock**" and that is Christ any other foundation is false and will eventually fail.

All other foundations will fail because men and not God build them. For hundreds, even thousands of years man has attempted to establish some form of permanent relationship with God and his fellow man on his own terms. Just a brief glance around the modern world will indicate that man has not succeeded. Generally speaking, men are further from God than they ever have been. Countless millions live their lives as though there is no God or if there is a God He is relatively unimportant and insignificant. Many Christians call Him Lord, Lord and seem to be doing many wonderful works for Him, yet He does not KNOW them. James says **that they are hearers of the word but not doers, deceiving their own selves.** Jesus says that **they call Him Lord, Lord yet do not do the things He says.** (James 1:22 and Luke 6:46)

Today's builders of lives and this world's society have made two major mistakes. One, they have rejected God's corner stone. Secondly, they have attempted to build on the sinking sands of mans wisdom with materials of wood, hay and stubble, the products of their own inventions. God declared, "**The stone which the builders rejected** has become **the chief cornerstone**. This was **the Lord's doing**; it is marvelous in our eyes." (Psa.118: 22) Jesus and His disciples repeated this declaration over and over again. It is for the most part still falling on deaf ears. The foolish men of the world are still trying to build on the sand and leave God out. Their lives, their world, their morals and their society is crumbling around them as the repeated storms of life crash against their flimsy structures. God warns that worse storms are yet to come and those men's hearts will be failing for fear of the things that are coming upon the face of the earth. (Luke 21:26)

Not too many years ago modern men laughed as "crazy preachers" spoke of the end of time and the signs of the end of this age. Today, many have stopped laughing as they can see that strange things are going on in our environment and our weather. Even our own scientist tell us that we are running out of space, air and many natural elements that are required to sustain life on this earth. Jesus spoke very graphically of the last days. He warned of unusual weather phenomena, signs in the heavens, volcanic activities, wars and rumors of wars in the midst of people crying out peace, peace and seeking for peace and finding none. Does this not sound like our world today?

Those of us who live in the area of the Gulf Coast and in hurricane areas can also appreciate the importance of having a strong structural house that can withstand hurricane force winds. Jesus' words about rain descending, floods coming and winds blowing hard, we understand very well. However He is speaking of much more important things than a house. He is speaking of **lost lives**, **wasted lives** and **lost souls** who have lost it all, with no chance of recovery. He states that these elements of the world "beat upon the house and it fell and great was the fall of it."

When we carefully study the words of Jesus in our scripture we will see that the primary difference between the ones who survived and the ones that did not survive was what **they did** with HIS WORD. The survivors heard His word and PUT IT INTO PRACTICE. His words to them were very practical and were applied as a way of life. The foolish people either did not hear would not hear or when they did hear His word paid it little or no attention.

Today, we live in a Bible illiterate world. There has never been a time when there were so many versions and translations of the Bible some of them good and a few really bad. Yet most people still know little or nothing about the scriptures. Many of the foolish ones have changed the scriptures to suit their own fancy and changed their god and gods to suit whatever they desire. **"Because they have not liked to retain God in their knowledge and have fashioned a god to their own satisfaction, God has given them up to vile affections. They have exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, so God has given them over to their own inventions and lusts."** (Paraphrased Romans 1:22-31)

Many of the modern day preachers and churches have gone along with this trend of either changing the word or ignoring the Word of God altogether. Truly the builders have rejected Gods' corner stone and are building on sinking, unstable sand. Even many Christian ministers are being very selective in what they preach and teach. They prophesy only "smooth things" (See Jeremiah 23) and tell the people exactly what they want to hear. Just as the Bible predicted, "many will depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons." And others, "will not endure sound doctrine but will heap to themselves false teachers who will tickle their ears." Still many more, will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." (Paraphrased portions of 1st and 2nd Timothy)

We are living in these days now. How is your foundation? What are you depending on and how are you building your house? May the good Lord help us all.

1 Cor. 3:10 "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. 12 **Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,** 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. 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."

In these scriptures we are informed that as sincere believers **we are all building** on the foundation of Christ. We are building with wood, hay and straw or we are building with gold, silver and precious stones. Wood, hay and straw are used to symbolize our actions and works, which are done for selfish motives or reasons. Gold, silver and precious stones are used to symbolize our actions and works, which come from a sincere heart of love in obedience to Jesus. When the test comes and it will come, all the structures of wood, hay and stubble will be burned up or destroyed and **we will suffer loss**. The structures fashioned of gold, silver and precious stones will survive and great will be our reward in Heaven.

Jesus tells us to, "not lay up for ourselves treasures here on earth where moth and rust corrupts and thieves break in and steal, but to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth or rust does corrupt and thieves cannot break in and steal." For, He says, "where your treasurer is there will your heart be also." IF YOU ARE NOT SURE OF YOUR FOUNDATION AND YOUR BUILDING JUST LOOK AT YOU LIFE AND SEE WHERE YOUR HEART IS. WHAT ARE YOU LIVING FOR?