

FOUNDATIONS IN THE WORD

1 Corinthians 3:9-23

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 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. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 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. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Avoid Worldly Wisdom

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

We've passed out brochures that I have entitled "Foundations in the Word". As our passage of Scripture in **1 Corinthians 3:9-23** tells us, unless our faith, hope, and lives are founded and lived according to the Word of God, it will all come to nothing. My intention is not to take the Word of God out of context of what it says in the fullness of the paragraphs, the chapters, and the books in the Holy Bible. In putting together this brochure, my intention was to accentuate, so to speak, the Word of God, to which we can see that there is an intentional flow to God's Word and in what His overall message is to those who He is calling "out of the darkness and into His marvelous light". (**1 Peter 2:9**) We'll be looking then at the brochure as it is a portion of the Word of God and it can give us a general understanding of what God's plan and purpose is for us. I have used this brochure many times in looking up quickly a passage of Scripture that I know is in the brochure. With an understanding and wisdom that comes from God, through the working of the Holy Spirit, we are first led to believe, in the Words of Christ Jesus, from **John 3:16-17**, that it is the revelation to us of God's redemptive plan for mankind.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." John then summed up His gospel, explaining the purpose behind it saying, "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (**John 20:30-31**) Yet truly, what John is saying, is that we don't just claim a life in His name, we live our lives IN CHRIST and that we then bear the fruit of being a child of God.

As the Apostle Paul told his beloved spiritual son Timothy, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". (**2 Timothy 2:15**) That message is for us too, as it is the Word of God. Jesus prayed to the Father, just before He was to be crucified, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (**John 17:17**) We know that the Word of God then has a two-fold meaning to us, that it is the written Word of God, the Scriptures, the Holy Bible, and then Jesus is the Word and He is the Truth. In **John 14:6**, Jesus tells us, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." As mentioned, Jesus is also the Word of God. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (**John 1:1-5**) "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:12-14**) Not only do we have the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, that were narrative accounts of Christ Jesus, that start out the New Testament, we then have the book of Acts that is the narrative that took place after the death and resurrection of Jesus, and then the epistles of Paul, and some of the other apostles, and then the book of Revelation that details the last of days and what will take place before the reappearing of Christ Jesus and then the bringing forth of the new heaven and new earth. Also included in the Word of God is the Old Testament that basically leads us to the understanding that God had a plan from the beginning, to the problem with His creation, that being our sins against Him. That plan of course was that He would have to send His Son, Jesus, the Messiah, to take our place in death, taking our sins upon Himself, so that we could be before reconciled to God and have eternal life with Him and Christ Jesus.

The Apostle Peter spoke of Paul's letters as being Scripture. In context, Peter says, "Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things [Jesus is coming back (as a thief in the night)], be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." (2 Peter 3:14-16) It is not just Paul's letters that get twisted and distorted to mean other than what they meant but all of the Word of God. That is why it is important for us also to "rightly divide the Word of truth". Our Scripture for today in 1 Corinthians 3:9-23, ends saying, "Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's." This is God's plan and purpose, all of creation is of God's making, and His Word alone stands for all of eternity. My words, or any other preacher's words don't amount to a hill of beans if it doesn't point to the Word of God and to Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God.

There is nothing wrong with reading books on church history, or reading commentaries on the Bible, I read a lot of that stuff. But it is through the Word of God, that we are transformed into the image of Christ, that renews our minds and changes our hearts. Once again, the Apostle Paul tells Timothy, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" How can we be made complete, according to God's plan and purpose for our lives? The Word of God! How can we be thoroughly equipped for EVERY good work? The Word of God! The Daily Bread is nice because it does have a Scripture with each daily story. Charles Spurgeon has great messages as I believe that he was a gifted and anointed man of God. But we should be careful and committed to be looking to the Word of God for our guidance in the Way, Truth, and Life.

From our brochure, the foundation of our faith is in Christ Jesus. There is a reason why the book of John is recommended to someone just wanting to get started in reading the Bible. The Word of God leads us to understand that God wants us to know Him, trust Him, and to honor Him, as He is not only our Savior through Christ Jesus, but He is to be our God (as He alone is God), our Lord (as He IS Sovereign over all of His creation), and our Savior. The book of John, written by the "one Jesus loved" most specifically and clearly showed the heart of God that was in Christ, that we know of the great love that God has for His creation, His people. It is also the only book that speaks of all of Jesus' I AM statements to more know Him and of His

role with regards to the Father and to us. Each of Jesus' I AM statements were clearly understood by the Jewish rulers that Jesus was claiming to be on the level of God, as Jesus stated, "**I and My Father are one.**" (**John 10:30**) The Apostle John clarified that in his first epistle stating, "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." (**1 John 5:7**)

The first section after the front of the brochure gives Scriptures that speak of all of creation being created according to God's will and purpose and for His glory. "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein." (**Psalms 24:1**) I think if we were to consider that as God alone is the one and only true God, and He is behind the creation of all things, that He truly is worthy of praise and worship. Not only that, but God is perfect in all His Ways (**2 Samuel 22:31**) and Works (**Deuteronomy 32:4**). Because of our sin, the sin of all mankind, we lost out on having fellowship with God and friendship with God. But God-Praise the Lord God Almighty that He had the perfect solution to our problem. Not just our problem but a problem for God too because He is the one who created us and gave us the breath of life and He loves us and wants us to have fellowship with Him. He wants to be our Lord, God, and Savior, and He also wants to be our Heavenly Father and for us to be His beloved children. "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." (**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**) Not only then has God reconciled us to Himself through His Son Christ Jesus but that He also has a plan for our lives in being His ministers of reconciliation. As we say, we are called by God to share and show the love and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The next section says "Christ is our Righteousness". Really it could say, "Jesus is our all in all". As Jesus told His disciples, and is telling us, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing.**" The Apostle Paul tells us, as it is in the brochure, in **1 Corinthians 1:30**, that God, through Christ, is our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. He gives us wisdom to accept the free gift of God, His Righteousness and to then live in His Righteousness, in Christ Jesus, as He then sets us apart to live in His Holiness, which is sanctification, and we begin our new lives in our Redemption that is in Christ Jesus! The next section is "Faith in Him". We are living our lives in faith, which by the way is not a blind, unfounded faith. As Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, **the evidence of things not seen.**" Not

only do we have the evidence from the testimony of the written Word of God but as the writer of Hebrews tells us, "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (**Hebrews 12:1-2**) Even in our gathering together today of God's saints, those who live in the faith that is in Christ Jesus, we are indeed surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. Not only by those of us speaking of Christ Jesus, but living our lives in faith and in the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit and then bearing the fruit of the Spirit. That is the next two sections in our brochure. The fruit of the Spirit that should be working in us continually is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

The next couple of sections are Scriptures that speak of the gifts of the Spirit and the specific calling or appointments of the Holy Spirit for specific men and women of God. We don't all have the same giftings and we are not all called to the same office yet we are all called to be abiding in Christ and bearing the fruit of the Spirit in Christ. As we all being called into the faith in Christ Jesus, from one faith to another, and from His glory to us, as the Apostle tells us, that in Christ we are "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." You see what that forms? From Christ Jesus to us (up and down) to our faith to others (side to side), that makes the perfect communion that is in Christ, according to the cross of Christ. This is a long endurance race that is set before us that will involve grief, sadness, pain, sorrow, and from time to time, the loss of loved ones. We're promised though that our labor is not in vain. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

I'm going to leave you to look over the rest of the brochure yourself, and hopefully it will encourage you to want to spend more time in reading and knowing the Word of God.

Let us close with the prayer at the back of the brochure that is in **Hebrews 13:20-21**, "Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

Foundations in the Word

Jesus said, "I AM..."

"The Bread of Life"
John 6:35

"The Light of the World"
John 8:12

"The Door of the Sheep"
John 10:7

"The Good Shepherd"
John 10:11

"The Resurrection and the Life"
John 11:25

The Way, the Truth, and the Life"
John 14:6

"The True Vine"
John 15:1

-For God's Purpose-

All things of and for God

Psalm 24:1 (NKJV) The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

I Corinthians 10:26 (NKJV) for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

Psalm 89:11 (NKJV) The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all its fullness, You have founded them.

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

To God be the Glory

Isaiah 43:7 (NKJV) Everyone who is called by My name, whom I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."

Ephesians 1:11-12 (NKJV) In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

I Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV) Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Romans 11:36 (NKJV) For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Revelation 4:11 (NKJV) "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

-Called into Fellowship-

I Corinthians 1:9 (NKJV) God is faithful, by whom you were called into the **fellowship of His Son**, Jesus Christ our Lord.

II Corinthians 5:18-20 (NKJV) Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be **reconciled to God**.

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NKJV) 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, having predestined us to **adoption as sons** by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

John 17:20-21 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be **one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

John 15:5-8 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you **abide in Me**, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

-Christ is our Righteousness-

II Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

I Corinthians 1:30 (NKJV) But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be **made perfect** in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

-Faith in Him-

Romans 4:3 (NKJV) For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Romans 4:20 (NKJV) He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

Romans 10:9-10 (NKJV) that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Galatians 3:11 (NKJV) But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Galatians 3:26-27 (NKJV) For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

-Spirit of Christ-

Live in the Spirit

Galatians 5:24-25 (NKJV) And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we **live in the Spirit**, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Romans 8:12-14 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are **led by the Spirit** of God, these are sons of God.

Galatians 6:8 (NKJV) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who **sows to the Spirit** will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Gifts of the Spirit

I Corinthians 12:1-10

Appointments by the Holy Spirit

I Corinthians 12:28

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NKJV) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, **for the edifying** of the body of Christ

-Faith to Faith-

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

-Glory to Glory-

II Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord

-Run the Race-

I Corinthians 9:24-25 (NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

-Labor is not in Vain-

I Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

I Corinthians 3:13-15 (NKJV) 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. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Galatians 6:9-10 (NKJV) And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

-Guarantee of what is to Come-

Romans 8:16 (NKJV) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NKJV) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

II Corinthians 1:22 (NKJV) who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

-Disciplined in Holiness-

I Corinthians 6 (20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.)

Ephesians 5 (32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church)

Revelation 21:7-8 He who **overcomes** shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Hebrews 12:14 (NKJV) Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Ephesians 1:13-14 (NKJV) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

II Corinthians 6:17-7:1 (NKJV) Therefore, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Ephesians 4:21-24 (NKJV) if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**-Understanding What
We Will Become-**

Romans 8:29 (NKJV) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

I John 3:2 (NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

-Holiness begets Freedom-

I Timothy 6:6 (NKJV) Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

II Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV) Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Galatians 5:13 (NKJV) For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

**-To those who will
get around to it-**

II Corinthians 6:1-2 (NKJV) We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

**IT JUST GETS
BETTER & BETTER!**

-To those who don't believe-

II Corinthians 4:3-4 (NKJV) But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Hebrews 4:1-2 (NKJV) Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Romans 13:11 (NKJV) And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

II Corinthians 4:16 (NKJV) Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (NKJV) Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.