

We Shall Not Be Moved

(Sermon Notes)

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7/13/2019

Today we are speaking of how to have a firm foundation in Jesus Christ so that **we shall not be moved**. This section of Isaiah is speaking of men who think they are smart enough to stay ahead of trouble and ruin. They think they can beat the system – God’s system.

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste... (shall not make haste to be destroyed)

There are many references to this Old Testament verse in the New Testament. Paul paraphrases this verse in:

Romans 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense: and whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.

Brethren, Jesus Christ is the foundation – He is our foundation. Everything that is not built on the Foundation of True Christianity – Jesus Christ – will perish. What does it mean when we say, “Christ is the foundation,” or, “My foundation is in Jesus Christ?”

Most of the world has heard that Jesus is The Foundation – and it has not brought about their conversion, repentance, or caused a change in the way that they live. And yet, we members of the Church of God are to build on that foundation. We have established that we are to build on the **Rock**, and not upon sand.

There is not one Protestant minister who does not know that! The standards and principles of the Law of Jesus Christ are always rejected by the world – they just can’t grasp it. Everyone in God’s Church thinks that their foundation is Christ – but is it?

What does it actually mean when it is said that we are to build on Jesus Christ? How do we build? What do we build? How do we know if our foundation is sure? If we say that we have built our foundation on Christ – how has **our life changed**?

Sure, we go to church on Saturday instead of Sunday... What else is there to do? How do we act or think differently now that we claim to be built on the foundation which is Christ?

A foundation is the support part of a structure, and it bears all the weight and forces. The foundation of things built is that part which anchors, carries and transmits all of its weight and forces directly to the earth beneath it.

Jesus used this tried and tested building technique **as an analogy** for Christian character growth when He demonstrated that using His name alone was insufficient for salvation.

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

There are those who think that because they **say the words**... because they **know the routine**... because they have **gone through the motions**... God requires that we **build** something significant on the foundation of Christ. Being **lookers-on**... being **spectators** is not enough.

Matthew 7:24 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**: [A Rock Solid Foundation]

Matthew 7:25 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.

Matthew 7:26 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:

Foolish – because he built nothing enduring.

Matthew 7:27 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.

The difference between those founded on Jesus Christ and those of the world comes down to the matter of heeding and doing **these sayings of mine** – verse :26.

Luke adds a dimension to this same results:

Luke 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and dug deep, and **laid the foundation on a rock**: and when the flood arose, the river beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was **founded upon a rock**.

How many have only heard these verses – **without** acting on them.

Luke 6:49 But he that hears, and **does not**, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

We must ask ourselves, “**What am I building?** – What have I built thus far – What is my legacy that I am anxious to present to Christ for His evaluation?”

Paul said it to Timothy:

1Timothy 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves **a good foundation** against the time to come, that they may **lay hold** on eternal life.

Those in the world hear with the ear, but they do not hear [heed] the teachings of Jesus. They do not do what Jesus says is necessary to be done. It is therefore incumbent upon us to know and follow Jesus’ instructions and the example that He set for us. We are to come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

That is a tall order, and cannot be achieved without the help of God (Hebrews 13:6) To build on Christ we must know all about Christ – we must understand all the things He has done – not only when He was on earth in His public ministry – but we must know **why** He did the things that He did as the God of the Old Testament (the covenants and the laws) – We must know Jesus Christ.

Our Christian mission is an arduous ordeal. Do we approach our Christianity with a ho-hum attitude? We once said that we “counted the cost.” Jesus said:

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

Before we were baptized – we considered how very **difficult** our Christian journey is. Are we up to it?

By way of **illustration**, I'd like to share an event we once experienced. Some years ago, Sharon and I were in Alaska for the beginning of the Iditarod Race which takes place every year.

The Iditarod Race is a long and arduous dogsled race. It is a race of over 1,150 miles - through the roughest, most beautiful terrain God ever created. Across jagged mountain ranges, frozen rivers, dense forest, glaciers, snowstorms, bridges of ice, desolate tundra and miles of windswept coast they go - with temperatures far below zero, winds that can cause a "whiteout" - a complete loss of visibility. From Wasilla - near Anchorage, in south central Alaska, to Nome on the western Bering Sea coast, each team of up to 16 dogs and their musher race.

It all started back in 1925, when a part of the Iditarod Trail became a **life saving** highway for epidemic-stricken Nome. Diphtheria threatened and serum had to be brought in and the only ones who could get through were the daring dog mushers and their faithful **hard-driving** dogs. The Iditarod race commemorates their heroic efforts.

But, in order to tie that event to today sermon - I need to back up to about **a week before** the Iditarod race began.

We were exploring some back country mountain passes when we came upon a party practicing for the upcoming Iditarod race. We came upon a woman with a lot of cages, gear and dog-sled equipment - and she explained to us that her husband was out on a training run - and she glanced at her stopwatch - and said, "he'll be back in 10 minutes and thirty seconds - if you would like to wait."

I started losing faith, when after 10 minutes there was no sign of the musher or his dog sled team. All of a sudden the air exploded with the sound of the rapidly barking dogs as they rounded a bend and descended upon us.

The dogs were beautiful animals - their tongues hanging out and panting after the hard run. The musher went from dog to dog giving them each a treat - a hunk of moose meat.

But he skipped one of the dogs in the middle of the pack. He said to me, "You know why that dog is not being rewarded?" I had no idea??? "Look at him - he's **not sweating** - he isn't even **panting** - you know why?" he asked.

He explained, "That lazy dog was just along **for the view** - he wasn't pulling his load - he wasn't a part of the team - he **did not do any work** - he's getting cut from the Iditarod Race!"

Too many Christians are like that - they are not building on a Rock solid Foundation. They are hard to distinguish from the rest of the pack. They are there for every event - sometimes they are the life of the party.

But their foundation is not solidly on Christ. They are not growing in grace and knowledge of the principles of Christ. They read and they keep up with the Church news, but they are not doing their part to be their **brother's keeper**.

Just like that lazy dog - they **think** that they are a part of everything - but they are not doing their part. What does Jesus want built on His foundation?

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1Corinthians 3:11) He is the wise master-builder. What are we to be building - even now?

Let every man take heed how he builds thereupon. (1Corinthians 3:10)

As little as it is practiced, everyone knows that Jesus taught about peace and love and forgiveness etc., but how many understand that Jesus taught **with the example of His life?**

He said, *"I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."* (John 13:15)

How far does Jesus want us to go in emulating His life – not that we could ever surpass His perfect example? Jesus Christ courageously **faced death** – knowing and believing that His Father was sure and faithful to raise Him up (Ephesians 1:20).

In fact, that was the **only sign** that Jesus ever gave that He was indeed the **Messiah** – that God the Father would raise Him to life after three days and three nights, and not allow His body to see corruption (Acts 13:35).

Would Jesus expect for us to be willing to face death in the way that He did? It is a fact that Jesus Christ came to this earth as Savior.

Do we comprehend that we are to follow Christ's example of **laying down His life** and also be **co-saviors** with Christ?

"Yes, if we endure unto the end – we will reign and rule with Jesus Christ in the Millennium making us **co-saviors** of the world – **Saviors with Christ** of the world tomorrow."

(Mystery of the Ages p. 240, p. 198 paperback)

Jesus was anointed from the foundation of the world to be the One who would come and establish the Kingdom of God over all the earth. (Matt 25:34) We, too, are appointed to be there with our Savior as co-saviors.

We will be made unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth – with Christ. (Revelation 5:10) But in a much greater sense – we are to be **co-saviors** – even now. Let me expound on this most important concept.

Jesus laid down His life that the world might be **saved** – He delivers the all the world.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

We are justified - made righteous by Christ's **blood**. (Romans 5:9)

On our own, we could never be righteous in God's sight – righteousness must be attributed to us in a greater way. Christ's righteousness is imputed to us.

We are **saved** by Christ's life - by His resurrection. (Romans 5:10)

We are privileged to lay down our lives for one another when one is overtaken in a sin. We do not have the privilege of choosing who we will help, or **if** we will become involved in the solution. True Christianity is not a spectator sport – like the care-free dog on the dog-sled team – just out for a stroll – taking in the view.

When we become aware of a terrible offense – we cannot say, "I'll just put it in God's hands."

It does not matter what the offense is—lying, stealing, adultery as in 1Corinthians 5 – we must work with those involved – toward a resolution and reconciliation of the matter.

People in God's Church come up with a multitude of **excuses** not to get involved: "I'll let someone closer to the situation handle it." "It's not in my area – I really should not get involved." "I don't want to cause trouble."

Answer: there's already trouble – what you are saying is that you are not willing to be a part of the **solution**. "I'll leave it to the ministry to handle – that's what they are paid for."

If God has allowed us to know about an offense that jeopardizes someone's salvation – we do not have the option of "Opting out!" We are involved – and we must use every resource to establish the Peace of God. There is no Peace of God where there is terrible sin, like lying, stealing, or adultery going on.

1Corinthians 6:8 Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.

1Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

1Corinthians 6:10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Brethren, do we forget that we were yet sinners when Christ died for us.

1Corinthians 6:11 And such were **some of you**: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified [made righteous] in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

We are our brother's keeper – that is our God given role.

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, if [or when] a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

All of this has to do with building on the foundation – which is **Christ**. Jesus Christ's example to us in **laying down His life** is that He died at the crucifixion. A true Christian – a follower of Christ's example – must be willing to **also lay down his life** for his fellow man. How do we go about **laying down our life** for another?

Paul realized that occasionally a man is willing to sacrifice himself that another might live. Like those fighting men who have won the Medal of Honor by throwing themselves on a hand-grenade to save their fellow comrades.

Romans 5:7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Romans 5:8 But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

How do we go about **laying down our life** for another? God does not ask us to shed our **blood unto death** very often – but He expects that in order to save our brother we give the matter our entire commitment – setting aside everything else – that we hold back nothing for our brother’s sake – our security – our reputations – our standing in the community – for his spiritual salvation – Jesus said:

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that does not forsake **all** that he has, he cannot be my disciple.

That is a **total** commitment – there is not room for those who hold back.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Who among us is willing to set all aside and lay down our life for others just as Jesus did (John 10:15)?

*"Let him know, that he which converts the sinner from the error of his way **shall save a soul from death.**"* (James 5:20)

That is how we are **co-saviors** with Christ.

How are we building on the rock solid foundation of Christ?

1Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Anything else is not a foundation – it is dirt and sand and will soon fail.

1Corinthians 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

Gold, silver and precious stones are very good works – like forgiveness, reconciliation, laying down our lives - sacrificing of ourselves. Gold, silver and precious stones go well beyond **kindness to strangers** and being **soft spoken** – but those are good works also

1Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

Wooden structures are fine – but how enduring are they? We understand that **wood, hay, and stubble** are more susceptible to being burnt up. A grass hut could vanish in a moment’s fire. Wood, hay, and stubble are Christian manners, like saying “Please,” “thank you,” and opening the door for someone. Gold, silver and precious stones are serious acts of Christianity.

What Paul is laying out here is that there are very **serious** Christians going diligently about their faith - while some brethren are more **religious hobbyist** and “There for show – seat warmer” Christians who are much more likely to succumb when trials and tribulations come upon us.

1Corinthians 3:13 ...the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

God will know how serious we are about spiritual character building on the rock solid foundation of Christ who said in:

John 4:34 "...My meat is to do the will of [the Father]that sent me, and to finish His work.

Jesus never let down for a moment:

As Jesus poured out the changers' money, and overthrew their tables; His disciples remembered that it was written of Him, "The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up." (John 2:17)

1Corinthians 3:14 If any man's **work abide** which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

That is the **gold, silver and precious stones.**

1Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Do we have Foundations that do not fail? This is our admonition to build with better materials than **wood, hay, or stubble** which are not suitable for the Temple of God.

1Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the **temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Title from here:

Has the Truth of God's Word become an indelible and unchangeable part of us so that **we shall not be moved?**

Acts 2:25 David speaks concerning Jesus Christ, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for He is on my right hand, **that I should not be moved:** (from Psalm 16:8-11)

Christ had become David's Rock Solid Foundation. Somehow, almost everyone thinks that they cannot be **moved or shaken** in their Faith – but, the big tests have not yet come on all of us yet. So many who came into the Church of God – never firmly established their foundation on Christ. ...People – and sadly, Ministers, alike. Without a firm foundation – no substance can develop or endure.

What we must have is a foundation that **cannot be shaken.**

Hebrews 12:25 See that ye refuse not Him that speaks. For if they escaped not who refused him that spoke on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaks from heaven:

Hebrews 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

There is a big Shake-Up coming!

Hebrews 12:27 And this word, Yet once more, signifies the removing of those things that are **shaken**, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Hebrews 12:28-9 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.

Peter speaks about how when we build on the rock solid Foundation of Jesus Christ – we are built up unto the Holy Temple of God.

1Peter 2:4 To whom coming [Lord Jesus], as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

1Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are **built up a spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Brethren, make up a list of your **spiritual sacrifices** – between you and God alone – so that your left hand does know what thy right hand is doing: (Matthew 6:3)

1Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him [Jesus Christ] shall not be confounded.

1Peter 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

1Peter 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

1Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a [special purchased] people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him [God the Father] who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

Jesus is the foundation. The apostles built on that foundation – and we continue to build up the spiritual temple – the household of God on the inspired teachings we have received of them.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Ephesians 2:21 In whom all the building fitly framed together grows unto **an holy temple in the Lord:**

We are not building physical organizations, noticeable reputations, corporations or establishments for our security – but we are **building the spiritual holy temple in the Lord.** :21

We need to learn to look beyond the physical to the **Spiritual.**

Ephesians 2:22 In whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

The good news is this: This present evil world will soon perish – but, not the earth. God's plan will soon be put back on track. Jesus Christ, the prophesied Messiah, the Rock Solid Foundation, will establish the Kingdom of God in all the earth!

Acts 3:20-21 [God] shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Brethren, Let's make sure that our foundation in Christ is firmly established.

End: We Shall Not Be Moved