

# **“IF THE FOUNDATIONS BE DESTROYED, WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?”**

**(PSALM: 11:3)**

**By Jerry M. Hunt, Sr.**

Foundations = “A basis, i.e. (fig.) political or moral support: purpose.” From-”to place, apply, appoint, etc.”

Destroyed = “To pull down in pieces, break, beat down, overthrow, ruin”

Righteous = “Just, lawful (man)” From “To be right (in a moral sense)”

Our adversary, the roaring Lion, the adder in our path, the great seducer and deceiver, the Devil has from the time God caused him to be cast out of the presence of the throne where God dwells, has made it his number one job to try and destroy the foundations that have been given to stabilize the lives of the children of God. All the misery he can cause them are while they sojourn in this life and he knows that.

I will bring to your attention only a few, perhaps three, foundations that Satan has tried to destroy as I perceive them in my life-time as a servant of Jesus Christ, although there are many others that are important, time will not allow me to address any more.

1. The foundation of the apostles doctrine, more specifically, Election.
2. The foundation of the Church.
3. The foundation that is Christ.

No. 1: Doctrine: (2 Tim.2:19) “...*the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his...*” The devil’s doctrine that has swept the land during the last 150 years would try to destroy this great foundation principle. It would suggest that God is not sure just who His people are, because it says, it is left up to the sinner as to whether he would become a part of the saved family of God. Various groups present their own brand of doctrine. Some groups require baptism (and that by their own authority) that one may be saved. Another may add or advance the idea that if we don’t get the gospel to the heathen and give them a chance to believe and repent, then we will condemn them all to damnation. Another may suggest that anyone may be saved if they will come down the isle and give the preacher their hand and give God their heart. Another may suggest that if one dies before they are 12 years old, they will die in a saved condition, however if they live beyond that age, then what they do about salvation determines their outcome. Another will advance the doctrine that all you have to do to be saved is accept Jesus as your savior and you are then saved. Another may use the term “faith” as the requirement. The list goes on and on. Some of the things I have listed are evidences of a person being in possession of salvation, but to suggest that anyone without salvation can by their own power do any of the things to receive salvation, would be to suggest that God really does not know who are His at some given point in their life. (Eph. 1:4) “*According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him*”

*in love.*” Every last one of the persons who are saved, and who will live with Christ eternally, are chosen to do so before they were ever made. I think it is terrible for people who claim to represent God to teach them that somehow the number will be adjusted according to events and circumstance during their life time, and only then will the outcome be determined. If that is so, then anyone chosen to be holy and without blame, is no better off than one who is not. The idea that was made popular by Andrew Fuller, that Jesus’ blood was sufficient for all mankind but only efficient for the elect has eroded more of the foundation of the apostles doctrine than anything else I can think of. It is a denial of the particular redemption and limited atonement found in the apostles doctrine. The idea that Christ died for everybody and that he loves everybody is not a doctrine of the Bible. Consider how much this foundation has been eroded in our day. Most people in religious circles don’t even understand what you are talking about when you mention “election”. To them the most common reaction is, “if every one doesn’t have an equal chance God would not be fair”. It is true that all men are created equal, but that equality is that they all are born “*dead in trespasses and in sins*”. (Eph.2: 1). Even in so called “grace” circles some have not come to the truth that the number of saved people was set and finished before the foundation of the world and nothing will ever change it. Many of them seem to think we have to preach them in, pray them in, or love them in before the number is filled, and before Christ can come back in the resurrection

No. 2: The foundation of the Church (1 Tim.3:15) “*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*” And (Eph. 2:19 to 22) “*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God: And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*” The true church of the living God must be identified by it’s faith and practice. If it is not on the right foundation, then people are confused and really wasting a lot of effort that will not be acceptable to our God. How many time have you, as I have, heard such statements as, “It really doesn’t matter where we worship as long as we worship because we are all working for the same place.” (I say, except for the grace of God we would all get to that place). I would like to quote from a history of the church of God (including the Kehukee Primitive Baptist Association) from the creation to A. D. 1885, by Elders Cushing and Sylvester Hassell L.L.D., more commonly known as Hassell’s Church History. “As for a nominal, natural, outward, or mechanical succession, the God of providence and grace, eighteen centuries ago, forever buried all such claims in the dark, impenetrable gulf of the seculum obscurum, or obscure, age, immediately succeeding the death of the leading Apostles and the destruction of Jerusalem, A.D. 70, and extending to A.D. 100, as freely acknowledged by the ablest scholars of Europe: the irreconcilable inconsistencies and contradictions of the leading Roman Catholic authorities in regard to the pretended Romish succession during this period furnish a sufficient illustration of this fact. According to the entire tenor of the New Testament Scriptures, what we are to look for is, not such outward succession, but a spiritual succession of principles, of inward, vital, heartfelt religion. Names are nothing, principles are everything, in the true kingdom of God. In all ages and countries, that people who, in all spiritual matters, acknowledge Christ as their only Head and King, form a part of the true Church of God. They have mostly been dissenters from “state churches” and political religions, Christ having declared

that his kingdom is not of this world; and, like the prophets and apostles and Christ himself, and as he predicted, they have been hated, slandered and persecuted to the death by worldly religionist, not only by heathens and Mohammedans, but even far more numerously by professed Christians, both Papists and Protestants, and instead of persecuting their enemies in return, they have returned good for evil and prayed for them.” All this boils down in our day where the devil has most people either thinking, if you don’t wear my name and have the work done upon you by my authority, you are not sufficient to be called a brother. Or, even more say it doesn’t matter what you do or believe. Oh! God, please reveal the foundations again to your elect. Remember the scripture in Isa. 4: 1, “*And in that day seven women (churches) shall take hold of one man (Christ) saying, We will eat our own bread (gospel) and wear our own apparel (practice) only let us be called by thy name to take away our reproach*”. We are living in that day. The foundations have been weakened.

No. 3: The foundation that is Christ. Although Christ is the foundation that cannot be moved, such attacks upon this foundation has had the effect of weakening it in the view of many sinners. (Isa. 28:16) “*Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious stone, a sure foundation;*” (Mat.21:42), “*The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner:*” (I Pet. 2:6,7,8), “*Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 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, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*” This foundation which is Christ has come under attack in every age of history. Never more so than in these current times. There is such a storm of ungodliness brewing and so much false doctrine about Christ, and so much deception about His bride, the church, that it seems our faith to hold on to the end will fail us at times, and we will be blown away with the trash of the world.

I now come to the conclusion by addressing the question, “What shall the righteous do? The righteous could do nothing, if the foundations could truly be destroyed. We need to (Jude 3) “*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*” In doing so we will soon understand we are at war with a defeated foe. In Christ we already have the victory and Satan would have us to doubt that, and we will, if we continue to look to our own strength to withstand him. No man, kingdom, or all the devils in hell can destroy the true doctrine as taught by Christ and his apostles. Some comforting scriptures about this are: (Rom. 3 - 4) “*yea, let God be true, but every man a liar, as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.*” (2Cor. 13:8), “*For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.*” (Isa.55:10,11) “*For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it to bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*” Since the Holy Spirit leads God’s children into all truth, if you do not believe the testimony of the apostles and Jesus Christ, then you are in the darkness, and if God does not come to your rescue, yours will be to hear the dreaded words, “*depart from me ye that work iniquity into everlasting fire.*”

As for the church, it cannot be destroyed. It may go weak in your time and area, but it

could be God's judgment for sin and indifference toward it that so many manifest. The Scripture declares (Mat. 16:18), "*upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" It does not say that it will not be tried, but that it would remain. David prayed that he might dwell in the house of the Lord forever. It is also my hope, and I hope yours' if you love it with all your heart and strength. If so, God will provide it for you as He has promised.

As for the foundation which is Christ, may we take comfort in this scripture, "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*"(1 Cor.3:11) The whole world was made for Him and by Him, and it exists because of Him. In Him we live, move, and have our being. If this foundation were destroyed all things would cease to be. Even when men do not attribute the proper praise to Him it does not mean he does not have it. All the angels of God continually praise Him. Even though He appears weak to some He is the mighty strength that never fails. The righteous can rest in Christ.