

GOD'S HOUSE – A FOUNDATION

Hebrews 3:6, “but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house as a servant whose house we are.”

We are God's house . . . We have seen that the church is God's house . . . first of all, as dwelling (“In My Father's house are many mansions, or many dwelling places). Secondly, the church is God's house as a holy priesthood, and today we're going to look at God's house from the standpoint of the foundation of truth.

We will turn to First Timothy chapter 3 and read versus 15 and 16. The apostle says, “I write so that you might know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and the support of the truth. And by common confession **great is the mystery of godliness:** He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Beheld by Angels, proclaimed among the nations, Believed on by the world, Taken up in glory.”

Here, Paul states that the church of the living God is the house of God, as the house of God and as the church of God, he says the church is the pillar and the support of the truth. You notice he does not say, pillow and carport . . . the church is not a place to sleep and it is not a place to park. He says it is the pillar and support of the true. And I think the apostle Paul chose his words very carefully, and each word had specific and definite meaning.

Under the direction of the Holy Spirit, he could have used many words to describe the church to tell what the church is. But he chose those two words. He says the church, or the house of God, is the pillar and the ground or the support of the true. It is the very basis and the foundation of the true.

And I think when he talks of truth he is not just speaking about being correct in doctrine. In fact, the word truth never applies to being correct in doctrine in the New Testament.

But in order to understand I think what he is talking about we must ask the same question that Pilot asked when Jesus came before him . . . it is still an unanswered question . . . he asked Christ, “what is truth?” And there are two passages I think that indirectly teaches us the meaning of truth.

These are familiar passages, the first is John chapter 8 . . . after Jesus has made the statement in vs. 32, “you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” . . . remember that He is speaking to very religious people--He is speaking to the most religious people upon earth . . . to people who worship and serve the true and living God and who have a heritage going back to Abraham -- a people who are supposed to be the covenant people of God representing God to the world. The only people on earth who had the law, the only people on earth to whom God had spoken and given a Revelation.

And in John 8:43, Jesus asked them, “why do you not understand what I am saying?” And then He answers His own question . . . He says, “It is because you cannot hear My word.” **Now listen to what He says to these very religious people . . .** He says, vs. 44, “You are of your father the devil (rather plain isn't it . . . your father is the devil—you are sons of Satan) and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, **and does not stand in the truth,**

because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.” Vs. 45, “But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I speak the truth, why do you not believe Me.”

The truth, as I see it based upon this passage, is that which has been spoken by God. And it is contrasted by that which is spoken by Satan . . . and the Jewish leaders, religious people of His day, are said in this case to be of the devil.

So, all that is not based upon the word of God is a lie! Now that is pretty heavy stuff, especially when you consider to whom Jesus is saying this. Everything that is not based upon the word of God is a lie . . . and the basic lie of humanity is idolatry (we’ll explain that in a minute).

And that leads us to the second passage which helps to understand the truth . . . this passage is found in the First chapter of Romans, beginning in verse 22, where the apostle is talking about the unbelieving Gentile world, he says, “Professing to be wise, they became fools.” Now this is what they did . . . when people do not acknowledge God . . . when they find within themselves the answer, he says vs. 23, “they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.” And then he said vs.24, “Therefore God gave them over to the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them.”

Vs. 25, “For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.”

Now that's idolatry and that's the essence the lie and that's the opposite of truth and that's where the world is outside of Christ. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and when they do that they worship and serve the things created rather than the Creator.

He goes on, vs. 26, “For this, reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their own desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts (and they are ordaining homosexuals in the religious world today) and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.”

Vs 28, “And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.”

The rendering honor and glory to the creature, or to the created thing . . . the giving of honor and glory to man, in place the Creator, or in place of God, is the ultimate lie . . . and it's the ultimate idolatry of man . . . it is the opposite of truth. The Jews in John 8 gave glory to themselves and to their interpretation of the law and they rejected what God had revealed to them. They were, he said, of their father the devil they did not stand in the truth.

This says to me, that a part from God, man is a fool. “The fool says in his heart, there is no God.” The fool goes on living as if there is no God. The fool does not acknowledge God. It is the fool

who finds answers within himself and not in God.

As we have seen several times, man was created to have dominion over this earth. That's the first teaching that we have in the book of Genesis when God speaks to man. And that means to me that he is to deal successfully with the various problems that he would encounter in life. But when he cuts himself off from God and depends upon himself, he becomes in the words of Second Peter 2:10-12, a drooling, unreasonable animal . . . he becomes impotent and helpless as he faces the world. And he has no sufficient answers for anything.

Let's read Second Peter, chapter 2, and vs. 12, "But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime . . . vs 14 having eyes full of adultery and that never cease from sin, enticing those redeemed in greed they are accursed children they have forsaken the right way and don't stray stable souls, having a heart trained in greed, they are an accursed children.

Vs. 15, They have forsaken the right way and they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness."

He's not just describing an ancient people who went wrong, he is describing a society that refuses to listen to God and who refuses to acknowledge God any longer, as Paul says.

Now, in the face of all this, the apostle Paul says the church is the pillar and the ground of the truth. That word pillar, as we said, Paul chose his words very carefully. It is not by accident that he used the word pillar. Some of you in construction know how important the pillar is.

Let's go back to Genesis the 31st chapter and we find where the use, the scriptural use, of a of the word pillar. Chapter 31 of Genesis, in verse 44, Jacob speaking to Laban, he says, "So now come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me. Then Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar." He took a stone and set this stone as a pillar, and in verse 52 he said, "This heap is a witness and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass by this heap for you for harm, and you will not pass by this heap and this pillar to me, for harm."

This stone becomes a pillar and this pillar is a witness of the covenant that we have together. This becomes very common throughout the Old Testament . . . where they take stones and they build pillars out of the stones and these pillars become witnesses of some great event.

Joshua did it when they crossed over the Jordan . . . and let's look at a passage in the 24th chapter of Joshua, versus 26 and 27, and Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God and to a large stone and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. And Joshua said to all people, 'Behold, this stone (when they did that it constitute a pillar according to Gen 31) it shall be for a witness against us, for we have heard all the words of the Lord which He spoke to us; thus it shall be for a witness against you, lest you deny your God.'

When they looked upon these pillars of stone, the stone bore witness that God has spoken on that occasion. In First Kings, chapter 7, in verse 21, in the building of the temple, "Thus he set up the

pillars at the porch of the nave (these are the pillars in the temple); and he set up the right pillar and he named it Jachin (that means he shall establish . . . God shall establish) and he set up the left pillar and named it Boaz (that means in it is strength).”

And so in the building of the Old Testament temple, they had two pillars and they named them. One of the pillars, they named it “God establishes it” and the other meant “God is our strength.” And anytime a Jew went into the temple, he passed by these two pillars and he was reminded, these were a witness to him, he was reminded that God has established Himself in His People, and he was reminded that God is our strength.

Now, let me give you a parallel passage in the New Testament, chapter 3 of Revelation, verse 12, “He who overcomes (and we are all over comers in Christ) he who overcomes I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall not go out from it anymore and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.”

He who overcomes will become a pillar . . . he will overcome because God has established him and because God is his strength. The church then is God’s modern message to the world. The church is the pillar of the truth. And as such, it is a witness to the truth of God. The church is a witness to the fact that God has established Himself in His world, in his creation . . . and it witnesses to the fact that God is our strength.

So the church is the pillar of the truth, witnessing and testifying of the truth of God in the world.

Alright, it is also the support of the truth, the pillar and ground of the truth, the pillar and support the truth. **That word support, as common as it may be to us, is only used three times in the New Testament.** It is used by the apostle Paul, he uses in First Corinthians 7, and verse 37, begin in verse 36, “But if any man thinks that he is acting unbecomingly toward his virgin daughter, if she should be a full age, and if it must be so, let him do what he wishes, he does not sin; let her marry. Vs. 37, “But he who stands firm in his heart (he who stands firm--that's the word “support or ground” in the King James version) being under no constraint, but has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin daughter, he will do well.”

And then it is used again in First Corinthians 15, after Paul has finished his writing on the resurrection, verse 58, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work the Lord, knowing that your labor of the Lord is not in vain in the Lord.” Be “steadfast” or be grounded . . . that's the word “support” see?

Stand firm in the present because of the promise of the future . . . because of the resurrection. Be steadfast--stand firm--be a support.

Then, of course, the third time that word is used in the New Testament is in First Timothy 3:15, where the church is the pillar and the support of the truth.

The church then protects and defends the truth against the confusion of myths the confusion on idolatry in the world.

Now, that says to me, that the church then becomes God's answer to the world's rebellion. It becomes His method of dealing with the world's woes. The church is the answer to the world problems. The church has the answer, from God, as to how mankind can deal with all the woes of the world.

Most of us think that all the church does is help us to forget the world's woes for about two hours on Sunday morning . . . but the church is the pillar and the ground of the truth, it means that the church is God answer for society, and for the problems and the ills that the world faces.

You remember one of my favorite Psalms, Psalms 110, the most quoted Psalm, "The Lord said to My Lord sit on my right hand (that is the ascension—when Jesus ascended, God said sit it on my right hand until I make thine enemies the footstool of thy feet pounds Jesus going to sit at the right hand of the father until the father makes all his enemies the footstool of his the house going to how is God going to make the enemies of Christ the footstool of his verse two the Lord will stretch for the last sector now we have seen and I don't go into it is does that leave me

and refers to the chart Hebrews 13 will makes it plain that Zion refers to the church the Lord will is strong sector his ruling power will be from the chart and he will say this for this reason on in the next of an enemy in the midst God's enemies are all around us the well has failed to acknowledge the the world as their father the devil they have rejected the true but mine has him he is true in he has people in his people have become the pillar and ground of the true that... That God is among his people that God is spirit God is present and he is ruling in the midst of his enemies from charts the only way I died anything in the world is through his people and he is ruling in the midst is in the early is God doing in the midst he has in turn this world over to his enemies he has previously people in the very midst of them in his room by people will volunteer freely in the day of firepower and holy array from the the value to the use it you the Lord has sworn will not change his mind our to priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek Lord is a direct right hand he will standards means in the areas right is no accident that governments rise and fall is no accident that teams come to power and then lose the real impediment mind the church we are too busy singing with we all have the was shattered kingdoms in the day of Israel the will judge among nations he will fill them with corpses he was sent to the chief man over a broad country bring from the roof of the wayside therefore he believed the use it and not only that but go back to the second this is the Psalm which gives a an accurate description of the flu although direct review true who have changed the truth of God exchanged the truth of God

worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator these are the actions of those whose father is the devil these are the ones in the midst of which the chart stands and in the midst of which he is ruling why all the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain the kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord that's what modern governments are all about they have taken their stand against the Lord and against his anointed God ordained civil government as a covenant is that he has three covenant state church and what is not to usurp the authority of the other but the state has all the will may have said that (as they are cast away his court from a defendant that's what modern humanism you ageism is saying today have nothing to do with God separation of God and the separation of church and God the use it to heaven/in the Lord's house them then he will speak to them in his anger and terrify them in his fury is God's answer but as for me I have installed my King upon Zion my holy mountain read Isaiah To find out what the holy Mountain is the church I will surely tell of the degree of the Lord to meet you someday begotten that's the resurrection God raised Christ from the

dead in order that he might accomplish what he wanted to come he said AFSCME and I will give you the nations as thine inheritance and the ends of the earth and five possession if that in the nations that your inheritance and the industry are as your possession where the you don't Christ Christ going to inherit we are joint heirs with Christ meek shall inherit thou shalt break them with a rod of iron now since data them earth now listen to these experts world teens show discernment take morning old Jets is your God is speaking to the teams in the judge's and the room were on this said worship the Lord with their and rejoiced and do homage to the son Misty become angry. Way will the right place in the temple how blessed are they he's not talking to the Sunday morning Sunday school class. He's talking to the rulers and the governor and the teams of the world and he is saying to them and not a God has the church is lost that message we have spoke the Kingsley or the government we have sent them to Washington we send them to Riley keep our welfare programs going to get us money for our schools in the municipality and the Laura is the message we transcend our politicians make our life better for us and make it easier for us to God says the message that political leaders need to hear is not a God church is the pillow the ground is the witness of that I think an exciting passage on this chapter 9 of Isaiah people in the darkness see a great live those who live in a dark lantern light will shine upon them verse four your brightfield the burden of staff on their shoulders the rod of the oppressor is the battle of MIDI and the mood of the wounded warrior in the battle to" rolled in blood will be burning fuel fire that God is describing a world that has forgotten him and turn from and his answer to the darkness of this world has answer to the you will come burden enter the stamp upon their shoulders he has answer to the rod of oppression he has answer to the boot in warrior and to the call rolled in blood is on to us with and the government shall be upon you shoulders you shoulders are reviewed by the way if that and his name shall be called wonderful Counselor mighty God eternal father Vincent peace that will be gone in to the increase in government are throne of David over his kingdom to establish an appropriate justice and righteousness from the Amazon forevermore from then on to more wins the van that he thought when the child is from that time on God is going to establish to go the answer to the wells darkness into the world's problems to the yellow burdens but upon people to the oppression and to are into the bloodshed and to all the evils in the trials that we face today is answer is a child is born, government and the next God's answer for suffering humanity but how does it work man seeks to change things by political and social and economic me that's the way we treat cite the if we change it all to say the church is very interested in changing society we turned it over Satan Satan to we gave it to the humanist into the lake people and they took it and then we sit around bellyache about what they teach our children are scum and we been too busy wanting to get our loan talking about the rapture and interpreting prophecy about coming kingdom in and saw heavenly minded that we of neglecting what's been going on the air and our children and our grandchildren are being left with the legacy of need all who have part in the background will be with me where we can do anything about women theologies is the approached his task Jesus came and attacked the situation is spiritual all and they contradicted the very nature of man and put him in the face I've accepted religion he said in a religious leaders you are supposed to have the answer to the problems of the world because God is with the world as a holy priesthood and you and I therefore God protecting them from you and give it to people bearing fruit he changed the course of human history one man change the course of

human history and he has sent us into the world to do the same thing make disciples of all the nations it limited to individual begins eight (the delivery divisions record didn't say that was missing the commission what will and teach them baptized them and teach them the sentence and the well and he is to us by giving us access to heaven that's what the book of Hebrews is all about the way has been opened and marinate people on earth in the midst of a writing indicating society there is a people who have access to heaven when can come boldly into the throne of God and he gave them the Holy Spirit he actually came down and took up his abode in the is within them he gave them is where which is a sharp to his sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and he gave them prior all the weapons in warfare that maybe he didn't say it would be easy nor that it would be done overnight but remember that is the Lord that you thousand years they met the church in a we are still living with a your church that doesn't set well as mental illness testimony the doesn't set well with those people who get rich every time something happens over the Middle East get rich by writing a book on prophecy and selling it to gullible Christians doesn't set very well with them to understand that God wants to do something with this world that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof he ever gave it to say Satan you searches of our gave it to his people and expects us to do something with it in Romans eight says he's going redeemed me show you something else will function will the upcoming just the given example here for Matthew 24 certainly don't give you intend to give you! 24 but in Matthew 24 thou wars and rumors of Earth hour famines and earthquakes there is tribulation the says they will even kill you many will follow way they will betray one another and I will be false prophets and parts of Christ longest lawlessness will be increased and I love the meeting will will we can expect but after he said all of that he said verse 14 and this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world were witness to only he recognizes the fact of wars and rumors of wars and famines and are quite tribulation and the love of many growing cold he recognizes the indifference of his own people but he said in spite of that gospel is going to be preached as they went in the world we have seen the rise and fall of the back in the preacher preaching against him do I charismatics preach against the house, and it was with the convention Mt. Oklahoma the banners it overstressed (despite the the the middle he said he said in four years you will be dead on communism is coming didn't hear much about Christ did you heard a lot about coming in we as saying rise to the and we succeeded still don't believe it's over with we have witnessed the social gospel arrives we can saying the Islamic revolution in the Middle East we have witnessed the rise of secular humanism in our society evolutionism feminism atheism Satanism the occultism new ageism and many more is in we have gone to the sexual revolution when going to a drug crisis we have a social crisis teenage abortion or teenage pregnancy and teenage and adult abortion all around us we see the breath of drugs in a is an economic crisis policing crisis in our government we see immorality we see open rebellion against God and country and mother the and everything that is the when we see all this and we see so much disinterested day in the church and we see a lot of interest in the church for all the wrong reasons I can't get excited about religious people and about church will who are going gung ho in the wrong direction been there all-inclusive and excited and build up and are doing something that God never commanded them and doesn't want but that all excited about it because it's religious and we see so much competitiveness in the world unconcerned among God's own people and we see open rebellion against all that is

sacred but in the midst of that I also see Matthew 16 versus 18 in my where Jesus said I say unto you that your Peter and upon this rock I will feel much and the gates of Hades the gates of hell the power of death powers of the unseen world will not overpowering give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven whatever you bind on earth shall of been bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth shall be the I want you to know that heaven is running the show I'm finding and I'm losing your binding in my and Lucy upon my instruction yeah but that was just the flow: verse 18 chapter 18 rather verse 18 he said to me I say unto you whatever you shall mine owner shall of been bound in heaven whatever you loose on earth shall of been the in heaven again I say in the utility you agree on earth about anything that you may ask it shall be done for you my father who is in heaven for where two or three are gathered together in my name and in the midst and time in their midst I am ruling in their midst I am bringing the