

A FUNDAMENTAL NECESSITY

REBUILDING A DESTROYED FOUNDATION

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

~ Psalm 11:3

1. Something is Broken

- a. ~70% of Americans claim 'Christian', but something is broken (<6% Bible worldview)
- b. Plenty of 'pastors' don't believe the Bible, rejecting faith, but claim Christianity.
- c. 60% 'Christians' doubt Jesus deity. 70% say he was created. 50%: works can justify.
- d. 11% of Americans believe the Trinity. Half don't think they are sinners.
- e. What does it mean to be Christian? What is Christianity? The Church? What do we do?

2. A Foundation Destroyed

- a. The foundation laid by the apostles = Jesus Christ - 1 Cor 3:11
- b. If truth is fallen something is wrong with the pillars or ground - 1 Tim 3:15
- c. The definition is broken. The foundation – fundamental truth is destroyed.
- d. Can we acknowledge that the church is broken yet?
- e. What are the righteous to do if it be destroyed? – Psalm 11:3

3. How We Got Here

- a. Take a breath. This is not new. Paul knew - 1 Tim 4:1-6, 2 Tim 3:1-8, 4:3-4
- b. Early in history creeds were used: but they were ever being modified, hard to enforce.
- c. Longest method: political control, priest class, institutional membership, separate Bible.
 - i. This created a religious structure, unregenerate, elite class, that hid the truth.
- d. New World: freedom to believe loosed the hold of political religion, institutions.
 - i. This allowed errors/ignorance to multiply, multiplied denominations (institutions)
 - ii. When heresies abound, fundamentalists arise - 1 Cor 11:19
- e. Fundamentalists v. Modernists (1911 The Fundamentals – Lyman brothers, RA Torrey)
- f. The new method: don't take such a strong stand, big tent, gain respect by the world.
- g. Standing for the foundation/fundamentals seemed too legalistic, strict, religious.
- h. "Don't impugn other Christians" is like saying "don't check the foundation for cracks"

4. Foundational Truth

- a. Truth: a Christian can be wrong, or a person can be wrong about being Christian.
- b. Christianity became the window dressing (service), the appearance, love, comfort.
- c. "A Christian wouldn't do that..." should be "A Christian doing right would not do that."
- d. The definition of Christianity/Church is not good deeds but truth - 1 Tim 2:4-5, Ti 3:5-7
- e. The foundation is much deeper – w/o salvation all are lost. 1Cor 3:10-11, 15:1-4, 17
- f. Jesus Christ Without Christ there is no church/salvation – 1 Tim 3:16, Eph 1:22-23
- g. Faith – Without faith no salvation, justification, etc. - Col 2:7, Eph 2:8-9, Rom 5:1
- h. Repentance (I was wrong) W/o knowing sin, no need for salvation -Heb 6:1, Acts 20:21
- i. The Bible is where the truth is found, measured, compared – 2 Tim 3:16, Col 1:25
- j. Serving → Salvation → Christ → Faith → Repentance → Bible (the words of God)

5. What Do We Do Now

- a. People have been removed by the gospel before - Gal 1:6-10
- b. The problem will get worse without having the right blueprint - 1 Cor 3:10
- c. Paul's instruction is to take heed how we build – rebuild, repair, rebuke.
- d. The foundation is important. We need to stand, support, uphold, affirm it.
- e. We can learn from the mistakes of those who have gone before...
 - i. We do not need the infallible institution, but an infallible text.
 - ii. We do not need liberty to error, but liberty to speak truth.
 - iii. We do not need to compromise, but boldness to speak what grace (Titus 2:11)
- f. Every foundational truth is strengthened by Bible believing M.A.D. 2 Tim 3:10-17
- g. The greatest consequence of standing for Pauline truth will be a stronger foundation.
- h. We need faithful men/women who will do the hard work – not of more good deeds, but by standing for and growing in the truth over a lifetime.
- i. Fundamentals matter. Freedom matters. Foundations matters. Faith matters.