

Foundations To Build Your Life On, part 6: AN ACCOUNTING
February 21, 2016

Today's sermon is the last in a series about the foundational truths to build your life on. These are the Biblical truths upon which to build your view of life. As your pastor, I want you to see life as revealed to us in the Bible. I believe it is the correct view of life.

I want this for your peace of mind. But I also want you to be able to explain life to others. There are people in your life who have no clue about the foundational truths of life. So they sometimes struggle to make sense of life and it leaves them feeling hopeless. Without the knowledge of these foundational truths, life doesn't make sense. That is why I encourage you to keep these in mind or go back to them when life doesn't make sense to you. You need to get a firm footing once more on what is true about life.

Now the truths we have been learning in this series are not the only truths we need. But they form the foundation for the rest. For example. A house isn't made up of just a foundation. On that foundation, you build a floor. Then on the floor, you build walls and on the walls, you build a roof. Now you have a house. But for a secure house, you need the right foundation.

I have been attempting to help you see that right foundations on which to build your life. However, just knowing them is not enough. You must act upon them. For each truth I've taught you, there is an action or actions to take to build your life upon that foundational truth. So let's review where we have been.

The first foundation is this: **1. God is real.**

Without a belief in God, life makes no sense. People who do not accept the possibility of God have no foundation upon which to build their lives. Life is meaningless without God.

We saw from the book of Genesis that before the world was created, God already existed. God is outside of time, outside of the universe. Everything that exists is centered on God. Life is all about God. God is the most important person in the universe and must be the most important person in our lives. We build our lives on this truth by giving God the attention He deserves. **(Give God the attention He deserves.)**

We give God attention by honoring Him, respecting Him, praising Him, and living each moment with Him in mind. Our thoughts, words, and actions must reflect the reality of God.

The second foundation is this: **2. God is the creator of all life.**

God created all life on this planet and any other life there may be in the universe. He also created any spiritual beings like angels. God created all life. That means He created me... and you. For our lives, we owe God thanks. **(Daily thank Him for your life.)** Build your life on this truth by daily thanking God for your life.

The first two foundations are good things. The third foundation is not so good.

3. We are all sinners.

As a sinner, you can expect there to be consequences for your sin. The Bible reveals that the consequences of sin is death, and eventually hell.

In response to this truth, you must confess and repent of your sins. (**Confess and repent of your sins.**) You have to confess to yourself that you are a sinner. And then you have to confess to God that you are a sinner against Him. On top of breaking any commands, you have lived a lot of your life without any consideration for God as the most important person in the universe.

We must confess our sin and then repent of it. The word repent means to turn away from something. In this case it means to turn away from our sin start living God's way.

The fourth foundational truth is this: **4. God loves me and sent Jesus to be the rescuer I need.**

Without God's love for us, and God showing that love by sending us a rescuer, there would be no hope for us in our sin. There would be no rescue from the consequences of our sin. But Jesus died in our place to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus suffered the consequences of our sin in our place. In Jesus we have hope for eternal life.

The way to build your life on this truth is to **Accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord.**

The fifth foundational truth is this: **5. Jesus made me for Himself.**

We all need to know why we were created. We were created by Jesus for Jesus. When you make something, you make it for a purpose. If you serve in the nursery of our church, you might build a tower of blocks so that the children can knock them down. Knocking down the tower of blocks was the reason you stacked them.

When I was a boy, a couple of friends and I built a tree house in my backyard. We built the tree house for a purpose. We built the tree house to play in.

Jesus created this world for a purpose. He created it for His purpose. For us to live a successful life, we must live it for His purpose. So we respond to this truth this way. **Let Jesus use you for His purposes through obedience to Him.**

This morning we come to the last of these foundational truths. To introduce this foundation I need to talk again about sin. Remember, foundation #3 is that we are all sinners.

Sin is doing something we know to be wrong. No one wants to get caught sinning and then have to suffer the consequences for it. Everyone wants to get away with sin. When you sin, you do not want to pay the penalty for your sin.

For example, if you take something belonging to someone else without permission, you don't want to get caught. You don't want to answer for your sin. You hope that no one finds out what you did.

However, you don't feel the same way when someone sins against you. If someone takes something of yours without permission, you want them to get caught. You want them to answer for their sin. You want everyone to know what they did to you.

In addition, you may want them to suffer further consequences for their sin. If they hurt you, you may want them to hurt too. If they took something, you want it back.

Another way of saying all this is that, **When someone sins against you, you want justice.**

Justice includes:

- **public knowledge that I was sinned against,**
- **public knowledge of the one who did it,**
- **restitution, if appropriate,** If someone takes your sweater, you want your sweater back, or a new one in its place, or the money to buy one.
- **punishment upon the one who sinned against me.**

This desire for justice comes from inside us. We were created by God in the image of God. Included as part of that is a sense of justice. God made us to have the knowledge of right and wrong.

God created an awareness of right and wrong in us. You know that it is wrong to hit other people. You know it is wrong to hurt other people. You know it is wrong to take things that do not belong to you. You know it is wrong to disobey your parents. You know it is right to obey your parents. You know it is right to obey God.

You know right from wrong. When you see or experience something that is sinful, your feelings show that you have a sense of justice. **Feeling guilt for your sin shows you have a sense of justice.**

Feeling anger for another's sin shows you have a sense of justice. You have a sense of what is right, what is fair, what is just.

If mom is giving out cookies for cleaning your room and you cleaned your room as well as your sister did, then it is not fair for you to get a small cookie and your sister to get a big cookie. If you both did the cleaning right, then fair is getting the same reward.

If you get a smaller cookie, you feel angry. You know you were not treated fairly. This sense of what is fair is part of how God created us. God created us in His image. God is perfectly just. And we are made with a sense of justice in us. That is why we react strongly to injustice.

Some examples of injustice we encounter in our world are systemic poverty, starvation, racism, human trafficking, un-equal treatment for anyone, and abuses of power by armies, governments, and businesses.

Because we have a sense of justice, we react to injustice in our world. You may be shocked by injustice at first. Likely you will get angry at those who cause the suffering of others. Our sense of justice cries out against those who cause others to suffer. And then, hopefully, you feel sad for those who are suffering unjustly.

We have this sense of justice in us because this how God made us. It is part of being made in the image of God.

Now, when people encounter suffering in the world, they usually one of several conclusions about life. They may think there is no God. But we know from foundational truth #1 that God is real. Another reaction by some people is that they think God is not loving, or else He would end suffering. But we know that God loves us. And then a third common reaction to suffering in the world is that God must not be powerful enough to end suffering. But we know that God has all the power in the universe because He made it.

So where does that leave us? When we see suffering in the world, how do we explain it? Why doesn't God do something about it? The truth is, God will. This is our sixth foundational truth.

6. Jesus will one day judge all sin.

While it may appear that some people get away with sin, no one actually does. Every sin is seen and recorded for the day of judgment.

Revelation 20:12-15 (NLT) I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

While it may appear that some people get away with sin, no one actually does. Every sin is seen and recorded for the day of judgment. In the meantime, it appears as if sin goes unpunished. We see suffering in the world and wonder why God allows it to go on.

It will help if we look at the world in four time periods. The first time period was very short. This was the period of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. This was after God created the heavens and the earth, but before sin entered the world.

The second period of history was after sin entered the world and mankind started experiencing some of the consequences of his sins. Much of the suffering in the world is caused by people against other people. Man is to blame for much of the suffering we see in the world. God could stop it, but He allows it to go on because it suits His purposes.

We are now in the third period of history, where God has shown us His love by sending us the rescuer we need. The good news of Jesus is going out into the world during this time. But there is still suffering taking place. Man still needs to experience the consequences of sin so that he will know he needs a rescuer.

Then the last period of history will take place after the judgment of all sin. God will separate those who have accepted Jesus from everyone else. This will take place on Judgment Day, when Jesus will judge all sin. That has not happened yet, but it will happen.

Hebrews 9:27 (NIV) ... man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,...

There WILL be an accounting for sin. That is where the title of today's sermon comes from. There will be an accounting for all sin. Without this promise, life makes no sense. When you get to feeling that life is unfair and makes no sense, that the unjust seem to get away with their immoral behavior and make others suffer, remember what God says. Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

Romans 2:16 (NIV) This (judgment) will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Note that Jesus, the Lord of all the earth, will be the judge of all men. The fact of judgment day is part of the gospel, the good news of salvation in Jesus. We have to share with people the bad news of sin and judgment, so they will be receptive to the good news of salvation in Jesus. When tell someone about Christianity, don't leave out the bad news. It is the bad news that makes the good news, good.

Jesus will one day judge all sin. This makes some sense of the fact of suffering. No one will get away with sin. When you see injustice in the world, when it happens to you, and you start wondering about life, remember this fact. Jesus will one day judge all sin.

So how do we respond to this truth? How do we act upon this? How do we build our life on this foundational truth?

How to build your life on this truth: Trust Jesus to make all injustice right on Judgment Day.

God's judgment upon sin is further proof of the love of God. Our inner sense of justice screams for justice. Because GO is both just and loving, He WILL provide justice. Love and justice work together.

Some people speak of love and justice as if they are opposites. They speak of God as loving, but mean that God will just overlook their sin. But that isn't really love. Love and justice work together. People want God to overlook sin, but if He did so, He would be an unjust judge. When someone steals your car, and the person is caught, you don't want them to go before an unjust judge. You want justice. You want a good judge, not a crooked judge.

If God is good and loving and just, He MUST also be just. God must judge sin. And He will do so, through Jesus Christ. While we may not see that happening now, we must trust that it will take place because God says so.

This takes faith, the same faith required for rescue from your sins in Jesus.

It takes faith to believe that God loves us.

It takes faith to believe that Jesus is the rescuer God sent.

It takes faith to believe that Jesus died for ALL of our sins.

It takes faith to believe that we are forgiven and will inherit eternal life.

Today, will you put your faith in these promises of God?