

# Undermining the Firm Foundation

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Luke 6:47-49

## I. ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING FOUNDATIONS

- A. It's the most important part of the building.
  - 1. You can't build without knowing what you are building on.
  - 2. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus talked about the foundation of a godly character.
  - 3. 1Cor. 3:9-11
- B. The foundation is the first part constructed.
  - 1. You cannot build the structure until the foundation is complete.
  - 2. 1Peter 2:4-9
- C. The foundation must support the weight of the building.
  - 1. If it is made of inferior materials, everything built on it will fall; the structure cannot last.
  - 2. Eph. 2:19-22
- D. The foundation is hidden from casual view.
  - 1. It is not designed to be looked at or to appeal to worldly senses.
  - 2. Isa. 28:16-17 - Power in essentials, not superficials.

## II. THE CHURCH'S FIRM FOUNDATION

- A. Matt. 16:18 - Jesus is the foundation that cannot be damaged though all hell arise against it.
  - 1. The Devil himself cannot shake the foundation of the church.
- B. 2Tim. 2:19 - Though some had been turned away by the errorists, yet the foundation of the church remained firm.
  - 1. False teachers cannot destroy the church.
- C. Heb. 12:22-24, 27-29 - There are no forces on earth (governments, armies, coalitions, et al) that can shake the Church's One Foundation.
  - 1. God shook heaven and earth, and the Church's One Foundation did not move!
    - a. Ex. 19:18; Haggai 2:6-7
  - 2. The Foundation of the whole Church cannot be undermined, because the Foundation is in heaven.
  - 3. Local churches can lose their firm anchorage in Christ; and, they do so on a frequent basis - Isa. 30:13

## III. UNDERMINING THE FIRM FOUNDATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

- A. Living in the past - Jericho's walls - There's a new tribe in town.
  - 1. What happens to a nation's defenses if they fail to consider new threats and refuse to upgrade and adjust?
  - 2. What happens to a congregation's defenses when they still think the biggest threat is from 1960s brand of institutionalism.

3. "It's not happening in our area." Satan just said "Amen."
  4. Get current in your understanding. Error changes faces constantly.
- B. Living in the world
1. Christians not merely in the world but becoming of the world: materialism, speech, attire, entertainment.
  2. Building on the sand.
- C. Living for ourselves
1. A man who makes himself the center of his world, puts himself on God's throne in his life.
  2. Selfishness has destroyed more families, congregations and communities than any other evil motive.
  3. Selfishness is a form of idolatry.
  4. The Lord and His Church come before individuals.
- D. Living for acceptance - 1Sam. 8:4-5
1. Little more than being ashamed of the simplicity of the Gospel of Christ.
  2. It is the power of God; it needs no adornment.
  3. Churches and individuals must not yield to denomination trends in professed churches of Christ.
- E. Living for the status quo - Heb. 5:12-14
1. Don't change anything, don't rock the boat.
  2. Content to go through life without growth.
- F. Living for exhilaration - Acts 17:21
1. Fascinated with new and exciting things, willing to try anything before considering whether or not God's word approves.
  2. Forgets that the good feeling one gets from worship comes from worshiping in spirit and in truth and must not be generated by experimental and innovative forms of worship.
  3. Another manifestation of this is the recent fascination with F. Lagard Smith's Radical Restoration, resulting in a number of newer congregations enthralled with casual or unstructured worship services.
- G. Living half asleep - 1Peter 5:8
1. Preoccupied with other matters, some become oblivious to the direction a local church may be going until it is too late to do anything about it.

Conclusion:

- A. Amazing that all of the powers in hell and the forces of this earth cannot shake the firm foundation, but we can undermine it in a local church and for ourselves with one of these attitudes.
- B. Joel 3:16