

"Building a Foundation for Life"

Hebrews 10:23-25

Introduction: The message that we are going to consider this morning came to me in preparation for this past Wednesday's study in Esther. Today I want to speak with you about a solid foundation for your life.

Now, the church's foundation is Jesus Christ. He is the chief corner Stone of the church.

1 Peter 2:6-8

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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,

⁸ And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

A strong LIFE FOUNDATION starts with Jesus Christ and then we build from there.

I. The Pressures of Life

Illustration of a building.

Without a strong foundation the building will not stand. Years ago I worked on the Windber Elementary School and the footers took an abundance of concrete. Some of the footers were 24" - 30" wide, 50' long and 10' thick. That would be about 50 yards of concrete at \$100.00 per yard. That would be about \$5000.00. That is very expensive but the ground was soft and so it was needed to support the pressure of the building on top.

Application:

We live in a world where we are going to face pressures and problems.

Job 5:6-7

⁶ Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground;

⁷ Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Job 14:1-2

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

² He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

Ecclesiastes 5:15-17

¹⁵ As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.

¹⁶ And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?

¹⁷ All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.

Trouble is a part of life because we live in a fallen world.

Genesis 3:16-19

¹⁶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Problems, tests, and trials are inevitable. They are inescapable. Therefore, we must build a solid life foundation for ourselves and our families. How do we do this?

II. The Means of Stability

God has made a way for us to stand strong in the storms and the trials of this life. The foundation building comes as we are saturated with His Word.

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:*

²⁵ *And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*

²⁶ *And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:*

²⁷ *And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

Based upon the Words of our Lord our life foundation must be built upon His Word and if not, then your life is built upon shifting sands.

Let us get a little more detailed about the building process. There are two means that God has provided to build a solid foundation that will withstand the pressures of life.

1. Personal Study

Psalm 1:1-4

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

³ *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

⁴ *The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.*

David was a man who invested his time in the Word of God and the result was great faith in the face of the dangers of life.

Psalm 18:1-6

I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

² *The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

³ *I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.*

⁴ *The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.*

⁵ *The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.*

⁶ *In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.*

Job was another man who delighted in the Word of God.

Job 23:10-12

¹⁰ *But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.*

¹¹ *My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.*

¹² *Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.*

Job 13:15

¹⁵ *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.*

We see the strength in these men in the face of the trials and that strength came from feeding upon the Word of God.

2. Church

This is the other means by which God has made for His people to build a strong life foundation.

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

¹² *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

¹³ *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

III. Primary Hinderance

Now we do need to know that for a believer to have a daily time in the Word and to develop a life of faithful attendance to church, they must be disciplined. Wednesday evening we talked about how the believer has two natures. We have the NEW nature which is the Divine nature that God gives to us. This NEW nature desires to feed upon the Word of God.

But we also have the OLD nature which is the sin nature. He is also referred to as the flesh. He hates anything that has to do with God.

Esther 3:1-2, 5-6

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.

2 And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.

5 And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.

6 And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.

The sin nature just longs to have his way and he craves the things of the world. Instead of getting up early in the morning to feed on the Word he longs to sleep in and avoid the Bible.

It does not matter what you do you cannot rehabilitate the flesh.

Revelation 20:1-3, 7-8

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

⁷ And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

⁸ And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

After Satan is in the bottomless pit 1000 years, he will still be the same. Same will be true of people who die and go to hell. After 1000 years if they were left out, they would still be sinful. They would go right back to their wicked ways. The reason is because hell will not change a heart. Only Jesus and His Gospel can do that. The point is that you cannot do anything to improve the sin nature. He can only be defeated by reminding him of the cross.

IV. Secondary Hinderances

1. The Cost

In order to build a strong life foundation you will be required to sacrifice.

Luke 14:25-29

²⁵ And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

²⁶ If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

²⁹ Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

The sin nature will fight against making any sacrifices. He likes the easy life. He desires a life in which he gives up nothing. The flesh wants everyone to bow to him so he will lead you to live a life in which you are a people pleaser. So to make a choice to sacrifice is going to be something which the flesh is going to resist.

2. The World

1 John 2:15-16

¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

The world certainly appeals to the sin nature and therefore the world can be a hinderance in building a strong life foundation.

Conclusion:

The storms and the trials will come. Life will become very difficult at times. This is why we need a solid foundation. God has provided the means, but it takes discipline to build the foundation.