

VIII. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

LESSON EIGHT

... ABOUT HOW TO BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION, ONCE LAID

INTRODUCTION

We have seen that Jesus Christ is the only foundation upon which to build a Christian life that will never crumble. The believer who builds upon this foundation, ONCE LAID, can say, like David:

"He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be moved." That foundation, which is Jesus Christ, is laid in ones life, by way of the NEW BIRTH. Jesus says in John 3:5, "Except a man be born of water [the Word] and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Now to make the Christian life built upon that foundation sure, solid and permanent - a life style that will not crumble under adversity, the believer needs the BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and subsequent fillings, for the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus and brings power to the Christian life. Likewise the believer needs to have the CONFIDENCE OF the Apostle Paul that he has through the New Birth in Jesus, ETERNAL LIFE, safe and secure.

The purpose of this lesson is to answer the question, How Does One Build on The Foundation, Once Laid?

HOW DOES ONE BUILD ON THE FOUNDATION, ONCE LAID?

The answer to this question is found in the parable of Jesus, about the wise man and the foolish man, each of whom built a house - Matthew 7:24-27.

Matthew 7:24-27, 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: 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. 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: 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.

Were the houses tested differently?

How were they tested?

Results of Testing?

Why these different results from the same testing?

What are we to understand by this picture of building upon a rock?

What does it mean for us as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Precisely, of what does building upon Jesus Christ, the ROCK, the SURE FOUNDATION, consist?

What does Acts 20:32 say concerning this truth?

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Conclusions: The answer to the question (How does one build upon the foundation, once laid?) is God's Word, and God's Word alone - as we hear it and do it, as we study it and apply it - which is able to build up within us, a strong, secure structure of faith, built upon the foundation of Christ Jesus.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE BIBLE

Having come to the conclusion that the way we build upon the foundation, once laid, is by HEARING AND DOING THE WORDS OF JESUS, we are brought to a subject of GREAT importance in the Christian faith: which is, the relationship between Christ and the Bible; and, arising out of that, the relationship of the believer to the Bible.

From the following Scripture passages determine the relationship between Christ and the Bible.

Exodus 24:3,4

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:20,21

1 Corinthians 14:37

John 1:1

John 1:14

Revelation 19:13

Summary: The Bible is the Word of God, and Christ is the Word of God. The Bible is the written Word of God. Christ is the living Word of God. Thus Christ and the Bible are in perfect agreement and in that sense He is perfectly one with the Bible.

Conclusions: Since we have concluded that the How of building on the foundation, once laid is by HEARING AND DOING WHAT JESUS SAYS, we now can further conclude from the above passages that the BIBLE is the means by which, above all others, God speaks, reveals Himself, guides and directs His children. Therefore, we will build a strong, permanent Christian life upon the foundation of Jesus Christ IF WE HEAR AND DO WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS.

OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE BIBLE

From the following Scriptures determine your relationship to the Bible , and therefore your relationship to Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

John 14:21

John 14:23

1 John 2:4,5

Conclusions: We would note from the above Scriptures that our attitude toward the Bible is our attitude toward God. You do not love God more than you love His Word. You do not honor and respect Him more than you honor and respect His Word. You do not have more room in your heart and life for God, for Jesus, than you have for the Bible.

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

Do you want to know how much God means to you?

Yes ____ No ____ If Yes, then ask yourself, How much does God's Word, the Bible, mean to me? God means as much to you as His Word means to you - just that much, and no more.