

## “Foundation to our Home” – Pr Jim Sprengle – Easter 5 – May 7, 2023

- I. **1 Peter 2:4-5; John 14:6** – <sup>4</sup>As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, <sup>5</sup>you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood...” and Jesus said, <sup>6</sup>“I am the Way and the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father except through Me.”
- II. **I like to watch “This Old House”.**
  - a. Not necessarily the standard version, although there’s nothing wrong with that one... but there’s one that’s called, “Ask This Old House”
    - i. People write in with different problems that they want to fix themselves, and sometimes the show hosts will go to that location and show them how to do it.
    - ii. Not long ago there was a lady who called in from Portland of all places, looking to get help with earthquake retrofitting for her home.
    - iii. It was very interesting to see the ways that an older home and its foundation was made safer in the event of an earthquake.
    - iv. The guest contractor explained earthquakes are like someone driving who hits the brakes, the car stops but passengers lurch forward.
      1. An earthquake will hit from any direction and move the ground forward, while structures lurch forward and often fall off foundations or crumple from the side pressure.
      2. No one can tell which direction the earthquake will strike, so they securely fasten the house to a foundation (and if the foundation is falling apart, they would replace that too.)
    - v. Everything depends on a secure foundation for the house to remain standing – because if it is secured to a weak and crumbling base, no amount of fasteners will hold when the big quake hits.
  - b. In the same way, companies test houses for hurricanes.
    - i. One company built two different 1400 square foot homes inside its warehouse and subjected them to sustained 110 mile per hour winds.
    - ii. As expected, the standard house started to shake and rattle... and pretty soon it collapsed.
    - iii. On the other hand, the house that had the floors and roof reinforced to the foundation only suffered some cosmetic damage.
    - iv. One of the test engineers summed up the results by saying, “The bottom line you have to ask yourself is, which house would you rather be living in?”<sup>1</sup>
  - c. Yes, that is a good question for each of us today... as we consider the “spiritual house” that God has given us.
    - i. There is no better foundation than Christ... who Peter quotes from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a

stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.” (vs 6)

1. The prophet Isaiah said these words hundreds of years before Jesus came into our world, and other translations say, “whoever believes in Him will never be shaken.”

ii. The point that Peter is making by supporting his words with Scripture is that Jesus Christ is the Rock and Foundation of our faith and lives.

III. **As Christ is the Foundation, there is nothing more secure... more stable.**

- a. Some of you understand the problems that can happen to foundations, especially old ones.
- b. Sometimes the concrete used is a bad mixture that becomes very soft and crumbly over the years.
- c. It might be that the builder...
  - i. ... decided to take shortcuts – and maybe it was cheaper or easier to make a bad mixture.
  - ii. ...was doing the best they could with their knowledge and their own “special recipe”, and had no idea they were adding or subtracting things that would cause trouble.
- d. The point is that if we build upon anything other than Jesus Christ – the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6), then we are forever lost and without hope.
  - i. There are no better tomorrows without Jesus.
  - ii. There is no true stability without Jesus.
  - iii. There is no real hope without Jesus.
- e. Yes, there are many people in this world who build their foundation on everything other than the Way, the Truth and the Life, but they will always lose.
- f. Now, for those of us who have faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and the Rock of our salvation, our faith means He is our foundation.
  - i. Yet, what happens when we decide to neglect, ignore or change the very meaning of who Jesus is?
    - 1. What I mean is that Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:24-27 that whoever builds their house on His Words and does them are those who build on the Rock.
    - 2. As Christians in a very wishy-washy world, we can often allow the world to water down God’s Word... to the point it is no longer solid... to the point we are building parts of our lives on something other than Jesus.
    - 3. Christ is always solid, but we might add a little of this or a little of that, and pretty soon we have a crumbling mess – because whatever we come up with cannot stand.

- ii. Again, the day might arrive where we have gone so far off track with our own ideas about what a good foundation is, that we leave the best one behind.
  - g. We can make up a false Jesus, and we can make up a false religion that is not based on the Way, the Truth, and the Life – but it will fail us in the end.
- IV. **The great message of Easter is that Our Savior lives as the firm foundation.**
- a. He is risen! **He is risen indeed, alleluia!**
  - b. The beginning of our Easter journey actually began at our baptisms.
    - i. You see, Romans 6:3-5 says that by baptism we died with Christ and are now walking in a newness of life – and not only that, but we will rise from the dead just like Jesus on the Last Day!
    - ii. We are Easter people from the moment God comes to us through faith and our baptisms.
    - iii. And if there is any place we might be anchored to our Lord, it is through the baptism that claims us as God's own child.... Which is not based on our promise to God, but on God's promise to us.
    - iv. This is the firm foundation of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead and calling us into relationship with Him from death to life.
  - c. So, why is it so important to have Christ alone as our foundation?
    - i. When the day comes that it is time to close our eyes in death, we need not fear, nor have anxious hearts, but instead we rest secure.
    - ii. In the past few weeks, two men from Ascension have died after their houses were battered by the storms of life... but they were never knocked off their strong foundation of Christ.
      - 1. No, until their dying breaths, Dale and Rich were secure in Jesus, and people around them were comforted immensely by that gift of faith.
      - 2. You see, Jesus says in John 14 today that He will prepare a place for us where we will live with our God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever.
      - 3. And what is the foundation of our home? – rather, Who is the foundation of our home? Jesus Christ.
  - d. That is our hope and our promise... that Jesus keeps us steady throughout the struggles and challenges of life no matter what we face.
  - e. So always remember, there is no greater peace than Christ as our Cornerstone, our Foundation, and the Rock on which we rest our faith, our lives and... our future home... in glory.
    - i. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> BBC NEWS, "US researchers create hurricane to test houses," (10-19-10)