

# Undermining the Firm Foundation

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!
  - 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 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. 8:5
  - 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 you can undermine it in a local church and for yourself with one of these attitudes