

Christian Foundations #1
Introduction

I. Christian discipleship likened to a building under construction

- A. Requires tearing down the old building (Jer.1:10)
- B. Must be built according to God's pattern (Ex. 25:9, 40)
- C. Even prior to laying a foundation comes counting the cost (Luke 14:25-33)

II. Foundation comes first

- A. Obedience to Jesus' teachings as foundational (Luke 6:46-49)
- B. All depends upon the foundation (Psalm 11:3)

III. The elements of an adequate foundation (Hebrews 6:1-3)

- A. Are these Jewish or Christian foundational elements ("baptisms" vs "washings")?
 - 1. Called "the elements of the doctrine of Christ" (v.1)
 - 2. Not representative of Judaism's primary features: Festivals, sacrifices, laws of cleanness, etc.
 - 3. "Repentance, Faith, etc., are not the parts of Judaism that are "left behind" when becoming a Christian.
- B. These are not a haphazard list, but are listed in the normal order of occurrence in the Christian life.
- C. The six elements divide into three distinct pairs:
 - 1. Repentance from dead works and Faith toward God:
focus on personal responsibility and choice in relationship with God
 - 2. Doctrine of baptisms and Laying-on of hands:
focus on social and communal aspects of inclusion in the family of God
 - 3. Resurrection of the dead and Eternal judgment:
focus on ultimate salvation and dependency on God

Christian Foundations #2
Repentance from Dead Works
(Heb.6:1)

I. Definitions of terms

- A. "Dead works" = sin (Heb.9:14)
- B. "Repentance"
 - 1. *Nacham* (Heb. "to breath heavily; to sigh;" by implication, "to be sorry")
 - 2. *Shoob* (Heb. "to return, to turn back")
 - 3. *Metanoia* (Gr. "to think afterward;" by implication, "to change the mind")
- C. Old and New Testament descriptions (Isaiah 55:6-9/Rom.12:1-2)

II. The First Mandate of the Gospel (Acts 2:38)

- A. Logically precedes saving faith (Mark 1:15/Acts 20:21)
- B. Not an invitation or a suggestion; an *ultimatum* (Acts 17:30/Luke 13:3,5)

III. Inadequate substitutes for repentance (I Sam. 15:12-26)

- A. Concealing or Minimizing disobedience (I Sam. 15:13, 20; cf. Gen.3:7-8)
 - 1. The effort to conceal one sin leads to additional sins (II Sam.11:5-6)
- B. Rationalization (I Sam. 15:15, 21; Gen.3:5-6/34:30-31/Matt.4:9)
- C. Blame-shifting (I Sam. 15:21; cf. Gen.3:12-13)
- D. Sorrow of this world (I Sam. 15:23-24; cf. II Cor.7:10): momentary conviction, apology under pressure, self-serving regret over personal loss

IV. Genuine repentance and its fruit

- A. The attitude (Luke 15:17-19, 24-25)
 - 1. Consciousness of having wronged God (Luke 15:18; cf. Ps.51:4a)
 - 2. Conviction of unworthiness (Luke 15:19; cf. Ps.51:4b)
 - 3. Release and joy (Luke 15:24-25; cf. Ps.51:12-13)
- B. The fruit (Luke 3:8/Acts 26:20)
 - 1. Appropriate confession (I John 1:9/Pr.28:13/Psalm 32:3-5)
 - 2. Restitution (Luke 19:8-9)
 - 3. Restructuring of life patterns (Eph.4:22-32)

Christian Foundations #3
Faith Toward God
(Heb.6:1)

I. Definition

- A. Faith toward God is a persuasion, a conviction and a settled confidence in God. To have faith is to believe and trust God, characterized by resting in His faithful character;
- B. Although “faith” is a noun, it is not a “thing” or “stuff.” As the noun “speech” simply refers to the action of “speaking,” and the noun “thought” to the action of “thinking,” so the noun “faith” refers to nothing else but the act of “believing;”
- C. Faith must have an object. One does not simply “trust.” One trusts a person or a thing. Trusting is faith. Its object is something else. Thus it makes no sense to suggest that one must “have faith in faith” or that “God created all things by faith.” Though some people may indeed have faith in their faith, this is placing trust in an unbiblical object, and is tantamount to self-trust or idolatry;
- D. Biblical faith is “faith toward God.” This means that God is the sole object of faith. It means more than believing in the existence of God or believing any set number of things about God. It means having total confidence and trust in Him as a Person.

II. Why Faith?

- A. Faith is the basis of relationship (Heb.11:6).
- B. Faith is a judgment of character (Heb.11:11/ I John 5:9).
- C. Faith is the only access to the knowledge of some things (Heb.11:1,3)

III. Justification by Faith

- A. That none may boast
- B. Faith that works through love (Gal.5:6/ Jas.2:14ff)

IV. Walking by Faith

- A. Obedience (Heb.11:4,7,8,17/ Rom.1:5)
- B. Vision (Heb.11:1, 13, 27/ I Pet.1:8)
- C. Divine Assistance (Heb.11:32-35a/ John 11:40/Mark 16:17-18)
- D. Endurance (Heb.11:35b-40)

V. Increasing Faith

- A. Acquaint yourself with God
- B. Familiarize yourself with the promises of God
- C. Lifestyle choices—cultivate dependency

Christian Foundations #4
The Doctrine of Baptisms
(Heb.6:2)

I. Why plural?

- A. Isn't there only "one baptism"? (Eph.4:5/I Cor.1:11-13)
- B. Various baptisms in Scripture
 - 1. John's baptism (Acts 18:25/19:3)
 - 2. Christian baptism (Acts 19:4-5)
 - 3. Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Matt.3:11)
 - 4. Baptism with fire (Matt.3:11)
 - 5. Baptism of suffering (Luke 12:50/Mark 10:38)
 - 6. Into Moses (I Cor.10:2)
 - 7. Baptism "for the dead" (I Cor.15:29)

II. Christian Baptism

- A. Baptized "into Christ" (Rom.6:3/Gal.3:27)
- B. *Is it Necessary for Salvation?*
 - 1. Yes? (Mark 16:16/Acts 22:16/I Pet.2:20-21)
 - 2. No. (Luke 23:43/Acts 10:47/11:17)
 - 3. It is necessary for obedience (Matt.28:19/Acts 2:38)
- C. *What Method (Mode)?*
 - 1. Sprinkling? (Ezek.36:25-27)
 - 2. Pouring? (Joel 2:28)
 - 3. Immersion? (Rom.6:3-5/Col.2:12)
- D. *In what name?*
 - 1. The Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? (Matt.28:19)
 - 2. The Name of Jesus? (Acts 2:38/8:16/10:48/19:5)
- E. *Who should be baptized?*
 - 1. Whole households, including infants (Gen.17:13-14/Acts 16:33/Matt.19:14)
 - 2. Belivers only (Mark 16:16/Acts 2:38)
 - 3. Should those baptized as infants be rebaptized? (Acts 19:5)
- F. *Who may baptize?*
 - 1. Only officials of a local church? (no scripture)
 - 2. Whoever evangelizes (Matt.28:19/Acts 8:12-13, 38/9:17-18)

Christian Foundations #5
The Laying-on of Hands
(Heb.6:2)

I. Uses found in the Old Testament

- A. Patriarchal blessing (Gen.48:14/Mark 10:16)
- B. The sacrificial victim (Lev.16:21-22)
- C. Appointment to service (Num.27:18-23/Acts 6:6/13:3/I Tim.5:22)

II. Impartation of spiritual benefit

- A. Prophecy and impartation of gifts (I Tim.4:14/II Tim.1:6)
- B. Miraculous Healing (Mark 16:17-18/Luke 6:19/Acts 5:12)
[Less direct contact: Luke 8:43-46/Acts 5:15-16/19:11-12]
- C. The baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17/9:17/19:6)

III. Why the laying-on of hands?

- A. All the things accomplished through the laying-on of hands can be accomplished without the laying-on of hands (e.g. Matt.8:8/Acts 10:44)
- B. The ritual affirms our agency as members of Christ
 - 1. We are His flesh and bones, our hands are His hands (Eph.5:30)
 - 2. We are interdependent upon each other (I Cor.12:20-21)

IV. Further discussion of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- A. *What is it?* (John 14:17/20:22/Acts 1:5, 8/Luke 24:49)
- B. *Is this automatically received at conversion?*
 - 1. All believers possess the Holy Spirit (Rom.8:9/I John 3:24/4:13)
 - 2. Some are not baptized in the Spirit at conversion (Acts 8:14-15/9:17/19:5-6)
 - 3. Others are baptized in the Spirit at conversion (Acts 10:44)
- C. *Is tongues the initial and necessary evidence?*
 - 1. Yes? (Mark 16:17/Acts 2:4/10:46/19:6/I Cor.14:5)
 - 2. Not established beyond question (Acts 8:18/9:17-18)
 - 3. Other: love, power & self-discipline (II Tim.1:7/Acts 1:8/Rom.5:5/ Gal.5:22-23)
- D. *Is the laying-on of hands essential?* (Acts 2:4/10:44)
- E. *Does the receiving of this guarantee perpetual spirituality?* (Gal.5:16/Eph.5:18-21)
- F. *How does one receive the baptism in the Spirit?*
 - 1. Thirst for God (John 7:37-39/Rev.22:17/Prov.17:16/Acts 8:21)
 - 2. Ask in faith (Luke 11:13/Gal.3:2/James 1:6-7)
 - 3. Laying-on of hands (Acts 8:17/9:17/19:6)

Christian Foundations #6
The Resurrection of the Dead
(Heb.6:2)

I. The concept of bodily resurrection

- A. *Does it make sense?* (Acts 17:31-32/Matt.22:23-33/ Acts 26:8)
- B. *Where are the dead now?*
 - 1. Soul “sleep” (John 11:25-26/Mark 5:39/ 1 Cor.15:51/ 1 Thess.4:14)
 - 2. Relocation (John 8:51/Luke 16:19ff/Jas.2:26/ 2 Cor.5:6-8/ Phil.1:21-23/ 1 Thess.4:14)
- C. *Why resurrect the body?* (Matt.5:5/ Heb.2:5-8/ Rev.2:7, 26-27)
- D. *What practical value in this study?*
 - 1. Comfort (1 Thess.4:18)
 - 2. Hope (2 Cor.1:9/1 Cor.15:30-32, 58/Luke 14:14/Heb.11:35)
 - 3. Motivation to purity (1 John3:3/ Phil.3:11)
 - 4. Demonstration of Christ’s victory over death (1 Cor.15:25-26, 54-55)

II. The resurrection of Christ

- A. *The empty tomb* (Luke 24:22-24)
- B. *The significance of Christ raised*
 - 1. Our vindication (Rom.4:25)
 - 2. Fulfillment of Davidic covenant (Acts 2:30-36; 13:32-34/ Rom.1:3-4)
 - 3. Firstfruits/firstborn(1 Cor.15:20-23/ Col.1:18/ Rev.1:5/ Phil.3:21)
- C. *Physical or spiritual—or both?* (John 20:27/ Luke 24:39, 41-43/1 Cor.15:44-45)

III. The final resurrection

- A. *Relation to the “rapture”* (1 Thess.4:16-17/1 Cor.15:51-54)
- B. *Two stages or one?*
 - 1. One? (John 5:28-29/ Acts 24:15/ John 6:39, 40, 44, 54; 12:48/ Rom.2:5-8)
 - 2. Two? (Rev.20:5-6/ 1 Cor.15:23/1 Thess.4:16)
- C. *Our same bodies?* (Phil.3:21)

Christian Foundations #7
Eternal Judgment
(Heb.6:2)

I. Understanding God's judgment

A. Judgment, justice and the love of God

- a. God's judgments are right (Ps. 9:8; 19:9; 92:15; 119:137/ Rom.2:2)
- b. God owes nothing to sinful man (Matt.20:15)
- c. God's judgments are a vindication of the righteous (Ps.7:8/26:1/35:24/43:1/54:1)
- d. Even God's judgment upon the wicked is tempered by His pity (Gen.15:16/ Deut.5:29/ Eze.33:11/ Ps.103:8)
- e. Endless mercy to the wicked is unkindness to the innocent and is thus unloving (Luke 18:1-7/ Rev.6:9-10; 18:20)

B. The righteous rejoice in it (Ps.48:11/97:8/ 119:43, 52)

1. The wisdom of God's verdicts (Deut.4:6-8/Ps.19:9/119:7)
2. God's retributive judgments (Rev.11:17-18/ 15:3-4/ 16:5-7/ 19:1-2)

C. The wicked do not understand it (Prov.28:5/Dan.12:10)

1. The false dichotomy between Old and New Testaments
2. God charged with injustice by guilty man (Ezek.18:29)
 - a. Man's perspective deficient & self-justifying
 - b. Is predestination fair? (Rom.9:14-23)
 - c. Is eternal hell disproportionate to a brief lifetime of sin?

d. How will God judge the ignorant?

- Ignorance does not atone (Eph.4:18/Hos.4:6/Jonah 4:11/Num.15:24-25)
- But it is taken into consideration as diminishing guilt*
(Gen.20:6/Deut.1:39/Acts 17:30/John9:41/Heb.5:2/Luke 12:47-48)
- No one is absolutely ignorant* (Rom.1:19-21/ 2 Pet.3:5)
- Infants would be the one exception* (Rom.7:9-11; 4:15; 5:13/ Matt.19:14)

II. The final judgment

A. According to works (Matt.25:31-46/ 1 Pet.1:17/ Rev.20:13)

B. Detailed (Matt.12:36/ Eccl.12:13-14)

1. Long-forgotten sins remembered (Amos 8:7/Ps.25:7)
2. Time does not erase guilt (Gen.35:22; 49:3-4/ Heb.12:16-17)
3. The folly of neglected repentance (Eccl.8:11/Rev.2:21/ Rom.2:4)

C. Negative aspects are avoidable (1 Cor.11:31-32)

III. Hell fire: literal or figurative? Eternal or purgative? Torment or annihilation?

(2 Thess.1:9/Mk.9:43-48 [Isa.66:24]/Rev.14:10-11 [Isa.34:10]/Matt.25:41)