

One True Foundation

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I would like to invite you to look with me in Isaiah chapter 28. I want to read from verse 14 down to verse 22 and talk to you about the one true foundation.

I am sure that depending on the builder how foundations are laid depends on how trustworthy, perhaps, the builder is. I know that there have been cases here buildings have fallen over time. Some for no reason at all other than that the contractor putting in the foundation didn't do all that was necessary to make sure it was right and in the end there was a consequence.

I am thankful that in this matter of salvation there is a trustworthy builder who has laid it. And it is not in the hands of men who are always deceitful and wherein can always be found a fault. But this foundation that has been laid, has been laid by none other than the Lord Jesus Christ himself, the perfect man and Paul... hold your finger here in Isaiah 28 and look over here in 1 Corinthians chapter three.

The Spirit of the Lord directed the apostle Paul to speak of himself as a wise master builder and he says in verse 10:

“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation.”¹

He is not talking about putting down the foundation of salvation because in verse 11 he says:

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”²

But he is talking about laying a foundation of the truth of Christ before men, pointing them to no other foundation exclusively that foundation which has been laid which is Christ. And he said:

¹ 1 Corinthians 3:10.

² 1 Corinthians 3:11.

“...and another buildeth thereon. But [and here is the warning] let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.”³

So coming back here to Isaiah chapter 28 we see the same warning being given and I would ask you, as far as salvation is concerned, is it laid upon? Is it resting wholly upon the Lord Jesus Christ and his finished work alone? It is an exclusive foundation. Any other foundation that is laid is nothing but quicksand.

You know, the man that built the house upon the sand when the tempest came and the wind blew it was carried away. There are going to be afflictions in this life. There are going to be times of trouble and these events that are ordained of God will test a man's foundation. There have been man who in the midst of the trouble have fled and it is just proven that there was no foundation at all.

But it is also possible that a man or a woman live out their entire lives in relative comfort without testing and without affliction.

The book of Hebrews says, you know, if you are not tried, you are not tested, then you are illegitimate. There are some that live out their lives in relative ease and yet the greatest test lies before them, not in this life, but in the judgment when they stand before a holy God and find out that their profession is no refuge at all.

And so these are the warnings that we have here when we read in Isaiah 28 and verse 14.

“Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem.”⁴

Talking here about the preachers.

Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it. From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report.⁵

³ 1 Corinthians 3:10.

⁴ Isaiah 28:14.

⁵ Isaiah 28:15-19.

Just hearing of what is coming will cause you to tremble.

For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it. For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.⁶

It will seem strange to those who had as a refuge a refuge of lies. In other words, a god that they never imagined.

Everybody is talking about God is love. And suddenly they find a God of judgment and their profession avails them nothing. They were not prepared to meet a God who is holy.

They were told he is love. Just make your decision and everything will be fine. And suddenly death and destruction.

“Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.”⁷

Just a couple of thoughts here for us to consider. First of all, those who oppose the one true foundation. I am sure if you polled most people today in Christendom they would say, “Well, I don’t oppose. I am not in rebellion. I believe in Christ.”

And yet they have made as their foundation their own so-called free will. They truly believe that God has acquiesced to them. And many would go so far as to say they have done what they needed to do. I have even been called upon to come to the side of a hospital bed and asked to do whatever I can do to make sure that this person lying in this bed gets to heaven.

And I have had to stand in the doorway and say, “If that is what you are looking for, I am not your one.”

I refuse to even pray with them because all eyes are on you as if you are going to do something just like a priest would to assure that that one laying there dying is somehow going to enter into the gates of heaven. That is a false refuge.

But there are preachers multiplied day after day who are willing to do that kind of thing, do something to give people some kind of hope, but it is a false hope. It is a false hope. There is no other foundation that can be laid than that which has been laid which is Christ. And so, you see, to think of any other way or any other hope within you, I don’t care if you even don’t verbalize it, but just to think in your heart that somehow, something you did or something you said, some prayer, some religious act that you did in

⁶ Isaiah 28:20-21.

⁷ Isaiah 28:22.

order to gain or obtain God's favor, that somehow that is your foundation, you are mocking the very foundation that God has laid.

You know, if it were possible that we could do something to satisfy a holy God, Christ is dead in vain. Paul said that in Galatians. He said if righteousness come by law, by any accomplishing of the law on your part, then Christ is dead in vain.

That is why it says there is no other foundation that can be laid than that which has been laid. When was it laid? Well, in verse 16 it gives us a pretty clear prophecy.

“Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone.”⁸

You might say, “Well, that was Jerusalem.”

Yes. Christ set his face like a flint towards Jerusalem to accomplish that death which would, indeed, be the salvation and the justification of every sinner for whom he died. But also we see in verse 16 Zion is a type of the Church, of that people that God has chosen and given to his Son. That Zion. He has laid in Zion for a foundation, on behalf of Zion, on behalf of this people that God has purposed to show mercy to, a stone. And, notice, a tried stone. In other words, he was tempted in all things such as we are yet without sin. He didn't just float into this and float out. He was born into this world a man. And he lived as a man. He earned that righteousness. Though he were a son yet learned he obedience, the Scriptures say. And he was heard in that he feared God. He trusted his Father. He had to act on behalf of that people that he came to save wherein they had fallen short and would ever fall short.

Who has ever her trusted God perfectly, faithfully? I haven't even begun to.

You say, “Well, what is your hope of salvation?”

The fact that the trusted. He did. A sure, a tried stone. He was tempted in all things like as we are, yet without sin. And that is the sacrifice, that is the righteousness that God the Father accepted and put to the account upon completion of his work, put to the account of everyone for whom he died. And it says here a precious cornerstone.

You know, people their animals precious. They call their children precious. But that is not the sense of the word here. The word means priceless. No price can be put to this. In other words, it is an infinite work that Christ accomplished, a precious cornerstone, a cornerstone and you don't want me building because I don't know what these hands would do, but I know enough about a cornerstone where it takes the blunt. Everything else takes its measurement from that cornerstone.

So when it is talking about a precious cornerstone, one from which when the plumb line is laid to it, it is perfect righteousness. And, therefore, it says here, “a sure foundation.”

⁸ Isaiah 28:16.

This is just simple language of Scripture that we find here. But do you know? To take anything within yourself and to think that somehow something you do, something you will, something you say somehow completes that work or it is a cooperation between you and Christ to get this thing done is to mock the very foundation that has been laid. And that is who is addressed here is scornful men.

You can see in verse 14 it begins with the leadership. Now we are a little bit isolated here meeting in this room, but you think about even right now around the world the number of invitations that are being given right now about this hour. And that is what preachers work toward. That is their whole message is based upon getting people to do something to get saved, either to walk an aisle, say a prayer, shake the preacher's hand, go into a corner room for counseling. Let's get them saved. That is their whole ambition.

And that is what these rulers in Jerusalem were doing. Even though the judgment that God had pronounced was impending and within their generation they would see the hand of God move against them as a nation when people said, "Oh, no, God would... he would do that to other nations, but not to us."

See, that is the refuge of lies. And who started it? It was the preachers. You know, it is just like the statement: God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. Who started that lie? I can't imagine that being a neon sign on the outside of the ark. That wasn't the message of the ark. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for you life.

God is holy. God is just. And any outside to the ark will perish. God is holy and just. Any outside of the Lord Jesus Christ shall perish.

You know, someone propagated another lie in which people can find. That is what this is talking about. They have taken lies.

"...we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves."⁹

Verse 15.

Christ died for everybody. Well, if he did, he is a poor Savior, because if he died for everybody and that did not procure their salvation, then I ask you. If you have any thinking mind at all, I just ask you. What on earth did the death of Christ have to do with salvation? If he could die of a sinner and that sinner would end up in judgment anyway. But there are a lot of people who have taken that as their refuge of lies. They believe that it, yes, it took the death of Christ, but it also takes me believing in order for that to mesh and become effectual. That is the covenant with death that verse 15 talks about. And these are they that oppose this foundation.

You say, "Well, that is not really rebellion."

⁹ Isaiah 28:15.

Yes, it is. To believe in any manner that somehow you contribute something to this... because they say, "Well, it is a covenant. God did his part. Now I do my mine."

No. You missed it. The covenant which delivers the sinner was made between the Father and the Son, just like you make out a will. You don't consult those whose names you are going to put in the will. You determine that. And upon the death of the testator they enter into the blessing and reality, you know, of what was determined in that will. That is how salvation is accomplished.

To believe any other way, to believe that somehow there is a new name being written down in glory every time a person believes like that song says. That is a lie. It is a refuge of lies. And the Scriptures are clear.

But people, see, they believe a lie. They believe it because they feel like they have had something to do. Preacher, give us something to do.

Well, the trial is already over and when Adam fell, we fell in him. There is absolutely nothing that the sinner can do but wait for condemnation unless the Lord Jesus Christ has taken that sinner's place. That blood has bought his pardon and that righteousness God has taken already and put to your account. Other than that, all you do is wait judgment, wait for condemnation. It will come. And you will find out who from the beginning God determined to glorify. It is his Son. He determined to honor his Son.

And that is what this is all about. As these awaited this impending judgment God had already determined that this judgment should come upon the nation. None could hold it back. And yet all the while this judgment had been determined, there were preachers running the land saying, "You are ok. I is just a little time of trouble, but it will pass." And they believed the lie. They believed the refuge of lies.

And even to the point of saying in verse 15

"...when the overflowing scourge shall pass through..."¹⁰

So that is pretty determinate.

"...shall pass through, it shall not come unto us."¹¹

Do you ever hear preacher say, "You can be as sure of heaven as your own name"? Name it, claim it. There is a lot of people that we deal with day in and day out. And you cannot shake them out of that profession. They believe because they followed what the preacher said that they are safe. It will come nigh. Others, but not us. And that is why in verse 18 the Lord said:

¹⁰ Isaiah 28:15.

¹¹ Ibid.

“And your covenant with death shall be disannulled.”¹²

You know, what is going to be a man’s profession in the face of God’s holy wrath? Unless Christ has borne it and taken his sin, your sin upon him, what does your profession? That would be like holding up a piece of paper to protect yourself against a fire. It will destroy your profession. It will destroy you.

“...your agreement with hell shall not stand.”¹³

You know, we don’t even read in Scripture people have this though that somehow there is going to be a trial in heaven and God is going to weigh the good works with the bad and hopefully enough good works are left after the bad is all burned up. They have it in their mind somehow a second chance.

Let me just add a few more good works before I die, show a little more kindness, do all these things. All you are doing is adding wrath upon wrath to the day of wrath against the day of wrath. That is not the foundation.

Unless God has given you eyes to look to the Lord Jesus Christ, your agreement with hell shall not stand. You think you are safe based upon something you say or do or are. Want to live a little better today? Try a little harder? You are just adding wrath upon wrath against the day of wrath.

And it says, notice verse 18.

“...when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.”¹⁴

There were many people in that day when the Lord brought the enemy against Israel. They stood at the gate with a certain measure of assurance. You know, preachers like to preach assurance today and say, “Well, would you like assurance? Pray this prayer.”

If you read over in Matthew chapter seven, look at it with me, Matthew chapter seven.

Is assurance of salvation a sign of salvation? Stop and think about it. Some say yes. If you have got assurance that is the peace of God.

Well, over here in Matthew chapter seven look what our Lord said, verse 21.

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven.”¹⁵

These are people that had assurance, but based on a false hope, a false foundation.

¹² Isaiah 28:19.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Isaiah 28:18.

¹⁵ Mathew 7:21.

“...have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?”¹⁶

See, based upon what you say and do that is their testimony. But what does the Lord say? Verse 23.

“And then will I profess unto them...”¹⁷

It is not your profession. It is what Christ professes.

“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”¹⁸

He is calling them workers of iniquity for trusting in and confiding in whatever good works they think they have to offer. That is to despise to the work of Christ. There is only one righteousness, dear friends, that God has ever accepted. And that is that which his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ came in this world to work out and accomplish and has done. And because of his faithfulness God the Father has put that to the account of his Zion, his people that he purposed to save.

You can see there in Isaiah 28:19 those that made the loudest profession would be the ones to go first in the slaughter, in the condemnation, because:

“From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you.”¹⁹

Can you imagine living out your life under a lie, believing in a savior that does not exist and suddenly being ushered into eternity and finding out that there is a God that you never knew and who never knew you?

That is what it is saying here.

“...for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report.”²⁰

It is like the rich man that died and said, “Send somebody to tell my brothers.”

And Abraham said, “They have Moses and the prophets. They have the Scriptures. Let them hear them.”

¹⁶ Matthew 7:22.

¹⁷ Matthew 7:23.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Isaiah 28:19.

²⁰ Ibid.

None of this is hidden. I think of the number of Bibles that are out there. If people would take and read them, the message is here, but they do... they read it selfishly. They read it not to see anything of Christ, but to find out what is in it for them and there is plenty of publishing companies. There are plenty of preachers that are willing to promote men's testimonies to get you to read their testimonies, you know, 90 minutes in heaven. They would rather believe that and buy it, find out what the latest craze is and fad, rather than read what is here.

Which would you rather trust, men's testimony or God's?

Paul called the gospel a testimony of God and the testimony of God is that there is no other foundation that can be laid than that has been laid which is Christ Jesus.

So to oppose the one true foundation it doesn't... you know, people tell me all the time. "I am not against Christ."

You are not against the Christ if your imagination. But I will guarantee you this. The Scripture says this flesh is at enmity with God. And if God ever opened your eyes to reveal Christ to you, there is going to be a fight. You are going to have to lay down your arms. And you will be brought to bow and to acknowledge had God not showed mercy, had God not intervened, I would have headed headstrong into hell with the best of them.

The only reason I am what I am is by the grace of God.

The second thing, very briefly that I want you to see here is the immutability of that one true foundation, a foundation that is laid by God himself. Do you suppose it ever moves?

When we read back here again in Isaiah chapter 16, who laid this foundation? It was God himself.

Which would you rather, a foundation laid by man or one by God? A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation. And it says:

"...he that believeth shall not make haste."²¹

He upon whom God has put upon this foundation, whose righteousness, whose salvation, whose sanctification, whose justification, whose redemption is Christ, period, you will not find that one running two and fro. That is what it means to make haste, to run to and fro in a hurry as if you are not ready. Or when you are at your wit's end to be shifting from here to there. for your own safety or to be driven by terror.

You know, if the Lord has taught you Christ in giving you this hope in him, there is no reason to run.

²¹ Isaiah 28:16.

Christ said:

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”²²

When he places that stone upon the foundation, it stays. But it is because of the foundation. It is because of who put it there. If I have been chosen of God and Christ has redeemed me and the Spirit has called me, you are not going to see me running to and fro in the face of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world.

Who is he? The Son of God.

But if I have been made by him, the Son of God.

Who is he? Righteous, holy.

What have I been made by him and his work? Righteousness and holiness. That is the reason I am accepted before a holy God and therefore I rest. I rest. Such is the foundation where justice has been satisfied and Christ has done it. There is no reason to make haste. There is no reason to fret. There is no reason to run. And when the judgment passes over it will sweep away the tempest of lies.

But, you know, if we are in Christ, that has all been taken care of already. You know, he bore that judgment. And if you are in him, when he died, you died. When he rose again, you rose again. When he ascended on high, you ascended on high. So it is not a matter of being sure of heaven as their own name because of something we have done, but it is being sure of heaven as our own name because of what Christ has done.

These are subtle little differences. You have heard that phrase, you know. Only one life, it will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last. Have you ever heard that? Boy, that is a wash. True. Only one life will soon be passed. But only what Christ has done will last. And therein lies my hope. And I trust yours.

Dear friend, anything else... I like the descriptions of Scripture in verse 20. We will come back to this.

“For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it.”²³

You know, if you are confiding in any work of your own, well, you have got a short bed. You know, all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

“...and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it.”²⁴

²² Matthew 11:28.

²³ Isaiah 28:20.

²⁴ Ibid.

Imagine a cold night and you have got this real small sheet and you spend the whole night fighting trying to keep your feet covered and then it is not big enough. You try to cover your head and then your feet get cold. Just back and forth, fighting with a sheet. That is what it is to confide in your own works, righteousness and will. It will not stand. It cannot stand. Only what Christ has done will last.

All right. We will pick up here again next time.

Brother Mike?