

Please join us at our **FREE GRACE CONFERENCE, JULY 16-18, 2010 in Pennington, NJ.** For more information go to www.FreeGraceMedia.com. The conference and meals are free but we have provided a place to register to help us plan for the meeting. Hope to see you there.

Title: Where Do You Stand?

Text: Isaiah 28: 14-18

Date: May 16, 2010

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Intro: Three little pigs.

EVERY MAN HAS SOME KIND OF A REFUGE: "I believe in God", "I believe there is a heaven and a hell," "multitudes think they have made a covenant with Jesus."

Sinners build a refuge by creating an image of God in their corrupt minds.

- Man's idol god can be manipulated by man
- Man's idol god can be bribed
- Man's idol god is not holy, he is not righteous, he is not just, he is not even truly a loving god--but as hateful, as fickle, as changing, as the man who created him.

People build a refuge by corrupting the word of God to say what man thinks his word ought to say.

- By bringing the law down to their level--defining sin and righteousness as acts and deeds.
- Sin is a heart condition.
- Sin is enmity against God (Rom. 8:7).
- Sin is a nature which loves self and hates God.
- Righteousness is not a deed, it is God the Holy Spirit making you a new creation in Christ Jesus (II Pet. 1:4; I John 3:5-10).
- Righteousness is having Christ's Righteousness imputed to you, who are nothing in your flesh. (Rom. 5:19).

Folks build a refuge in religious experiences:

- Ask them what their hope is, "I...I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior."--Do you realize the pride in that statement?
- "I joined the church"--yesterday, I heard many say, "I already have a church"--but I heard not one say, "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine."

Many build a refuge in:

- Their wealth--riches are their life and by giving away riches they expect to get life and rewards from God.
- In alliances with the ungodly--you'd be surprised how many people put great confidence in their willingness to compromise the truth of God.

Almost all simply put their head in the sand and refuse to hear the WORD OF THE LIVING GOD.

Isaiah 28: 14: Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. 15: 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: [But here is what God says such men are doing] for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

Isaiah said, "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD ALONE SHALL BE EXALTED in that day...Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?" (Is 2: 11, 22.)

Isaiah 24: 17: 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. 18: 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.

Isaiah 24: 16: Wherefore hear the word of the Lord GOD,

This morning, right now, will you listen to what the Lord GOD says?

I. THE LORD GOD LAYS THE FOUNDATION

At the heart of every refuge of lies is the liar who made it. If you made it, it is a refuge of lies.

V15: Ye have said, "We have made a covenant"...16: "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, I [not you] lay in Zion for a foundation a stone"

Do you know that the "covenant of God" is not a covenant that you make? Death is the payment for sin--you can't put away your sin. Hell has a rightful claim on you unless God in Christ justly redeem you from the curse. God's covenant is ordered and sure by God and he must make his covenant with you. **"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone"**

Illustration: Underneath your house is a foundation. Every house must have a foundation. (the leaning tower of Pisa)

Christ Jesus the Son of God is the Foundation Stone.

Smitten Rock--"that Rock is Christ."

Genesis 49: 24...(the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel:)

I Corinthians 3: 11: For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

For God to receive all glory--all glory--God must build the entire house.

God laid this foundation. In his eternal purposes and decrees God the Father chose his Son, Christ Jesus. Christ is the Firstborn Son of God among many brethren. Christ was chosen to manifest God's glory TO a people God chose in Christ before the foundation of the world--CHRIST JESUS IS THE FOUNDATION LAID BEFORE GOD LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD--IN FACT, THE WORLD WAS FOUNDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANIFESTING CHRIST THE FOUNDATION. Christ was chosen of God to manifest the triune God in a body. Christ was chosen of God to manifest the righteousness of God. Christ was chosen of God to finish the work of his Father: to honor and magnify his law, to fulfill all that is written, to live as the Righteous Representative of his people, to die in their place and put away their sin--he finished the work. Christ was chosen of God to build his Father's house--to govern his universe, to lay each living stone which makes up his spiritual house. God chose Christ, that no flesh should glory in his presence.

Zion is the church of God. It is God's building.

Christ is the only foundation upon which the church is built. That is why the true church of God, proclaims--not man, not the will of man, the worth of man, or the works of man, BUT CHRIST JESUS the Foundation and Refuge of our souls.

I Corinthians 3: 11: For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Christ's sheep don't need a checklist to know if a man is preaching Christ--"my sheep HEAR MY VOICE and they follow ME!"--the sinner saved by grace listens and knows his Master from an imposter.

II. CHRIST JESUS IS THE PROVEN STONE.

V16:...a tried stone,

Tried by every believer in every age.

Mal 3:10...prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Tried by Satan (Mt 4: 1-11.)--we get hungry and murmur, we live in an age of adrenaline junkies tempting God, if man is given a choice between worshipping God or making just a few hours of overtime--pay man he takes the money. Christ is a tried stone. Satan bruised his heel, but he crushed the serpents head.

Tried by his Father

He was made to feel the awful agony of all the sin of every chosen child of God. He felt the hatred of all the host of hell unleashed at once. Worst of all...he suffered the ETERNAL, HOLY, FIERCENESS OF GOD'S WRATH. Through it all, God the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased;" and he says to you and I this morning, "hear ye him!" (Mt 3: 17.)

II. CHRIST JESUS THE SON OF GOD IS A PRECIOUS CORNER STONE.

V16:... **a precious corner stone**

The corner stone is the point of unity. The whole building is held together by the corner stone.

CHRIST IS PRECIOUS--MORE VALUABLE THAN ALL ELSE--BECAUSE IN HIM IS ONENESS.

The triune God, all his elect children, and all God's elect angels are knit together in unbreakable union, in One, Christ Jesus the Corner Stone. Jew and Gentile, male and female, rich and poor, are "reconciled unto God in one Body by the cross" To the believer's in Ephesus:

Eph 2: 19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20: And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21: In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Someone said, therefore, Christ is "a trying stone" by which men are discovered to be believers or unbelievers, sincere or hypocrites. The Lord said, "I am come" for that purpose...

Matthew 10: 35: For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Isaiah 8: 14: And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Don't ask men WHAT they believe, ask men WHO they believe- What think ye of Christ?

- What think ye of Christ's person?--Christ Jesus is holy God, the fullness of the triune God--Would any here dare say that God is not ALL?--then would any dare say, "Christ is not All." If Christ is not All to you then Christ is NOTHING to you! You think yourself a builder--but you are a builder that set at NOUGHT--THIS STONE WHICH IS THE HEAD OF THE CORNER.
- What think ye of Christ's name?--"This is the name wherewith HE shall be called; this is the name wherewith SHE shall be called, "The LORD our righteousness."--Jer 23: 6; 33: 16
- What think ye of Christ's offices?--Prophet, High Priest, and King; Mediator, Intercessor, Advocate with the Father, the Captain of our Salavation, the Author and Finisher of our faith.
- What think ye of Christ's blood?--is it common (shed for all), does it depend upon you to be effectual?, or is his blood effectual--He washed away the sin of a particular people by his blood; he perfected forever by his blood? He

obtain eternal redemption by his blood? He purchase every chosen child of God, yea, his church with his blood? Eternal Life is in his blood?

- What think ye of his word?--"**If a man love me, he will keep my words**"--do you think you have life by his word by your doing or does his word cause you to lay hold of HIM WHO IS LIFE?; do you love that he says, "by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin"?, "having begun in the Spirit" is perfected by the flesh?; "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." "of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day"; Do you cling to John 3: 16 and despise Romans 9. To take some and reject some is to REJECT ALL!

- What think ye of his ordinances? Were you baptized into death when he died? Were you raised to newness of life when he arose? Was his body broken for you? Was his blood shed for you? Have you confessed Jesus Christ in water baptism? Do you remember HIM when you eat the bread and the wine?
- What think ye of his people? Do you love them and desire to be with them more than your own unbelieving mother or father, sister or brother? Do you long to encourage his brethren by your presence in the worship of Christ? Is your substance their substance? Whose feet are precious to you--the feet of those who preach salvation is of the Lord OR those "builders" who set at "nought" this precious corner stone, who are quick to shed innocent blood?

CHRIST JESUS IS THE "TRYING STONE" WHICH MANIFEST WHEREIN ALL MEN DIFFER:

I Peter 2: 7: Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8: And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence,...

III. CHRIST JESUS THE SON OF GOD IS THE SURE FOUNDATION. (v16)

Illustration: The house on Galveston Island

Mt 7: 24: 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: 25: 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. 26: 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: 27: 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.

Is your foundation sure?

1. If your holiness is in your acts--are you sure you are absolutely perfect--because "it must be perfect to be accepted of God"--God receives none but completely, perfected, holy, saints--that can be said only of those in whom Christ abides and who abide in Christ in glorious oneness.
2. If your righteousness is in your "works"--are you sure you are righteous before God? God receives his Righteous Son alone, and only those resting in Christ by faith.
3. If your wisdom is in your coming to the doctrines of grace, in dicing and slicing the word of God even with great accuracy and truthfulness, are you sure you have wisdom? Christ is the Power and Wisdom of God to those who have been truly called.
4. If you think that the least little thing YOU have done has made you God's own, are you sure you are God's purchased possession? God's children were each purchased by the precious blood of Christ Jesus and the Spirit alone seals his redeemed.

B. Faith receives a fully, completed, work of salvation by casting all on Christ the Sure Foundation.

- YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM
- The gates of hell can not prevail against Christ the Rock
God would have to fall way for this foundation to give way

CONCLUSION

V16:...he that believeth shall not make haste.

- Not he that willeth
- Not he that worketh
- Not he that runneth
- HE THAT BELIEVETH

Shall not make haste...

- Shall not be moved
- Shall not be put to shame (I Peter 2: 6; Rom 9: 33.)

Questions:

- Upon whom is your hope built?
- When darkness veils Christ's lovely face--where do you rest?
- In every high and stormy gale--where does your anchor hold?
- When all around your soul gives way--who is all your hope and stay?
- When Christ comes with trumpet sound--in whom and how will you be found?

Eric, let's sing #272--"The Solid Rock"--

- As you sing this song, I ask you to consider every word...as you leave here this morning, I want you to ask yourself this question:
- "Where is m Refuge? Where Do I Stand?"
- Christ is the Only Refuge, every other is a refuge of lies!

Wherefore, hear the word of the LORD...Isaiah 2: 10: Enter into the Rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty...8:14: And he shall be for a sanctuary; he that believeth shall never be moved!

AMEN!