

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

May 14, 2017

## THE ONLY FOUNDATION

A man is building the house of his dreams, a house he wants all to take notice of. He employs the best craftsmen to install his windows, lay his brick, build his cabinets, and trim out his house. It is beautiful house, the envy of all his neighbors, yet it does not take long before this man realizes that something is wrong. His window panes shatter, his bricks fracture, his cabinet doors will not close properly, and his trim separates at the joints. He calls each tradesman to repair their faulty work, but each one tells him the same thing. It does not matter what they do, the problems will only get worse. You see this man was so intent and focused on the crafts that would impress his friends, that he forgot the most important thing about constructing a building. He did not lay a proper foundation. Without the proper foundation, everything he built, whether good or bad, would fall in disrepair.

The apostle Paul uses the first three chapters of I Corinthians to bring us to this statement: *"...as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ"* I Corinthians 3:10-11 Paul is adamant that the foundation which he laid IS THE ONLY FOUNDATION that can be laid. Anything that is built without this foundation has no foundation at all.

Paul was concerned about what those who came after him would build upon the foundation. Some would build good things like *“gold, silver, precious stones,”* and some would build worthless things, like *“wood, hay, stubble.”* He knew that everything that was built upon this foundation would be tested by fire. <sup>1</sup> *Corinthians 3:13* The good would remain and the worthless would be destroyed. But, what happens if what is built is not on the foundation at all? The sad answer is that the good will pass away along with the worthless.

Paul describes the true foundation in several similar phrases. He describes it as *“The preaching of the Cross,”* <sup>1</sup> *Corinthians 1:18*, *“Christ Crucified”* <sup>ch1:23</sup>, *“Jesus Christ, and Him Crucified,”* <sup>ch2:2</sup> and *“Jesus Christ”* <sup>ch3:11</sup>. Each of these express the same foundation in slightly different ways. Let’s consider the words *“Jesus Christ, and Him Crucified.”*

**Jesus:** This speaks of the man who was born of a virgin, placed in a manger, baptized by John the Baptist, worked miracles, taught the people, was betrayed, crucified, and raised from the dead.

**Christ:** Whenever we read the words Jesus Christ it helps our understanding to remember this speaks of *“Jesus, The Christ.”* This reminds us that Christ is not the name of a man, but the title given to the one who would fulfill all the promises of redemption. “The Christ” is not just a man. He is the one by whom all things were made. He was *“with God and was God”* <sup>John1:1-3</sup>. He would be the Son of God <sup>Psalms 2</sup>, and he would bruise the head of the serpent <sup>Genesis 3:15</sup>. Perhaps the clearest prophecy of The Christ are the words brought to Daniel by the angel Gabriel. Gabriel describes the

mission of The Christ as *“to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”* Daniel 9:24-25 Being anointed *“The Most Holy”* by his Father, Jesus The Christ fulfilled all the vision and prophecies of redemption when he died and rose again. Jesus is THE CHRIST!

***“and him crucified:”*** This tells us how Jesus The Christ accomplished what he was sent into the world to do. Through his death he *“destroyed the devil”* Hebrews 2:14, *“crucified our old man”* and *“destroyed our body of sin”* Romans 6:6, *“sanctified us with his own blood”* Hebrews 13:12, and *“blotted out”* the Law by *“nailing it to his cross”* Colossians 2:14. Everything Christ came into the world to do, He accomplished through his crucifixion and resurrection. It is the only way given by God for anyone to be made free from sin, cleansed from all unrighteousness, made a new creature, and reconciled to God. These things do not come through philosophy, discipleship, time, trials, or wisdom. The fullness of redemption is received through simple faith in *“Jesus, The Christ, and Him Crucified.”* This is the foundation of the church.

Paul was concerned in his day about those who attempted to build worthless things on the good foundation. Those such things the fire will burn away. In our day, however, a greater tragedy awaits. On every hand, religious things are being built, both good and worthless, without a foundation at all. When we attempt to give spiritual things to unregenerate people, we are attempting to beautify a house that was built without a foundation. When we seek to do such

things, we are not saving souls, but locking them in to their damnation. In the end it will come to nothing. The words spoken may be true, but they will not stand when the flood Jesus spoke of arises. He let us know that even the best house built upon the sand will wash away. Matthew 7:26-27

The true foundation of *“Jesus Christ, and him crucified”* cannot be built upon or added to anything else. The effect it has is as though one attempted to lay the foundation stones of a building on the roof of the structure. The stones will crush the roof and everything under without regard to how well it may have been built. Jesus revealed this truth saying, *“What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”* Luke 20:17-18 The only hope is for the people to fall upon Christ and be broken, lest his truth fall upon them and grind them to powder. Simple gospel preaching destroys everything in its path, but it lays the foundation for a building that will stand when everything else falls.