

## **NO OTHER FOUNDATION!**

### **1 COR 3:11, EPH 2:9-11; HEB 5:11-6:12.**

A new year! Another opportunity to check that we're on the right road. To adjust the scope, if we're off target. God is so good that He allows us second, third, fourth chances to make sure we're on track.

***Paul says 1 Cor 3:11" No one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have- Christ Jesus/ Jesus Christ."***

A building with no foundation or a poorly constructed foundation will not last. You can have the best materials, if it's not built on a good foundation it will rot.

A building is only as solid as its foundation. If it's supposed to be a multi-storey building, the engineers must ensure that there is sufficient cement in the concrete mix; that they re-enforce the structure with steel rods etc.

If we look at the RDP houses, we see it's a disaster. The houses are cracking. The roof is sagging. The doors are jammed, it can't open properly even if it's not wet or damp. That is simply because there is a problem with the quality of the foundation of the house.

When you put up a Wendy house- a wood and iron structure- you don't have to dig trenches. You just need to throw a slab, to stabilise the structure.

Spiritually it's the same. You and I need to have a solid foundation if we're to withstand the stresses and strains of life. If you have a shallow foundation you will be like an RDP house. When problems come, you will crack. When it rains, the roof will leak. The doors will jam. There'll be a long snag-list of problems that must be sorted out.

There is a difference though – our foundation is Jesus Christ the Lord and we can turn to HIM for help. **[Heb 10:35-36]**

***Eph 2:19- 21 "So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together we are His house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.***

Everybody is included. Everybody is now qualified – gentiles included. The un-churched is included. They don't have to go through a finishing school. They just need to acknowledge and accept Him as Lord and Saviour, to be included.

It speaks of Christ as being the chief corner stone. Let's explore that word a bit.

- A cornerstone speaks:
    - Of remembering who built the building.
    - When it was built.
    - What the purpose of the building is.
1. But it also speaks of the SHAPE of the building. Not that it's a square or round or so many rooms. No, the shape speaks of;
- What mould or pattern it's going to take so that it can fulfil its mandate...
  - It's fashioned according to its eventual task and responsibility
  - It stands as a reminder that it must conform to its purpose. Because the Master Builder does have a purpose for it.

Let's go back to that text. It says: "becoming a holy temple for the Lord."

Repeat after me... were becoming... a holy temple.

If were becoming, it means that were not there yet! It's a work in progress. Were under construction.

***We judge others by their actions. And we judge ourselves by our intentions.***

So don't be too much in a hurry when casting judgement. Were all 'becoming'.

## **VIDEO**

### **Now what?**

So now that we know about the FOUNDATION, what do we do?

We have to move on. There is an assumption that once the foundations are laid, we have to progress. We have to grow. We have to show some sort of development.

However in Heb 5:11, the Writer identifies a problem. He indicates that he can't really explain to them because, they are 'spiritually' dull. – Slow to learn...

In Heb 6, the Writer encourages us to move on from **Foundational teachings/ First Principles**. He says, "Surely we don't have to start again..."

I've heard the comment: "**were not ready yet... Only when this and this is in place...; we first have to do this before we can do that...; we must prayer more.**" Then those commentators don't even come to the prayer meeting we **do** have.

Sometimes there's truth in that. But we cannot relay the foundation again and again. As it stands, there is nothing wrong with the foundation because HE is the **FOUNDATION...** and the **CORNER STONE.**

***Heb 6: 9b - 12 "we are confident that you were meant for better things that come with salvation."***

So, again there are indications that we must move on.

To avoid becoming spiritually dull or indifferent Hebrews suggests the following:

- Care for the Saints!

What does it mean to care for the Saints? To care means that you will become socially aware. You will hear and see things that will affect your outlook on life. You will be moved to do something about the situation.

- Love others as long as life lasts [NLT].

In order to lay hold of what has been promised to you, you will have to be alert and aware. The opposite of being spiritually dull. Caring for and loving people is a sure way of staying alert and aware thus ensuring you actually get/ inherit what was promised to you.

Eternal life... amongst other things...

### **Conclusion:**

To this end, we will be engaged in an EVANGELISTIC exercise. We will do some theory for an hour or two and then we will be exposed to engage in some practical – leg work ministry. [Detail to follow...]

Now, I know that some of us are not really comfortable with engaging people in any space, let alone a public space, about which church you belong to or giving your testimony. If that's you, I'd encourage you to still come along and be a part of the experience. Support those who will be talking. Once you've done it, you probably will really enjoy it and you'll be strengthened in your faith and in your love for God.

You have a good foundation... Jesus Christ the Lord...

