



Chalmette Church of Christ

August 3rd, 2014

Foundations of Worship (Part 1)

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Introduction

The church of Christ is built upon a solid foundation. On one occasion Jesus asked His disciples: But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my father which is in heaven. And I say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt. 16:16-18).

The good confession that Peter made concerning Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was the foundation upon which the church would be built. "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11). Anytime foundational truths are attacked or eroded, the authority of Christ is undermined. Paul admonishes, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17). Therefore, whatever we do regarding matters religious or spiritual, the authority of Christ must be respected. Jesus said:

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: 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. And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 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 (Matt. 7:24-27).

The question is raised by the Psalmist, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do" (Psa. 11:3)? The foundations are destroyed when man refuses to heed the doctrine of Christ. When society totally dismisses God's pattern for the home and the principles by which society is to be governed, that society will crumble (Prov. 14:34; cf. Rom. 1:20-32). Likewise, the church, the kingdom of Christ, must respect the authority of the King. Paul instructed, "Hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 1:13, ASV). The same apostle also noted:

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth (1 Tim. 4:1-3).

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables (2 Tim. 4:2-4).

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God (2 Thes. 2:3-4).

Paul is clear that an apostasy would soon take place in the early church, which would seek to destroy the very foundations upon which Christianity is built. A cursory study of the history of the early church would prove this would be done through undermining the simple gospel plan of salvation, the simple organizational structure of the church, and the simplicity of New Testament worship. If the "man of sin" in 2 Thessalonians 2 has reference to the Roman catholic papacy, and in my judgment it does, one can see clearly how the early church abandoned the simple, fundamental teachings of the Bible in all three areas and brought about a full-blown apostasy. This study is concerned with the foundations of worship. We shall divide our study into three sections by observing, the Fundamentals of Worship, the Folly of False Worship, and the Formula for True Worship.

Fundamentals of Worship

The aim of worship is God. "For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods" (Psa. 96:4). Of course, these other "gods" are false. But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes they have, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not, noses have they, but they smell not, they have hands, but they handle not: feet they have, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them (Psa. 115:3-8).

Man is to worship and serve the true and living God of heaven (Matt. 4:10; 1 Thes. 1:9). God is worthy of our worship because of who He is. When a child prays, "God is great, God is good," that child has expressed the two greatest truths this world can ever know. To worship God correctly, one must have the proper concept of God. In his majestic hymn O Worship The King, Robert Grant wrote, Thy mercies, how tender! How firm to the end! Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

God is worthy to be worshipped because He is all these and more:

Maker (Psa. 95:6)

Defender (Psa. 46:1)

Redeemer (John 3:16)

Friend (Jas. 2:23c; John 15:14-15)

Consider also these attributes of Deity that make God worth of worship. He is:

Holy (Isa. 6:1-3)

Loving (1 John 4:8)

Powerful (Psa. 139:6-14)

His power is further reflected through His omnipotence and His omnipresence.

Likewise, just as God deserves to be worshipped, He delights in our worship. Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman, said:

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

Man was made to worship. It is his duty, responsibility, and privilege to bring glory, honor, and praise to the God of heaven. But, not only does God deserve to be worshipped and delights in our worship, man desires to worship. It appears man will worship something. If he rejects God, he will fill his life with vanity, searching for meaning, and he will worship someone or some thing.

In Genesis 4:26, we read, "And to Seth, to him also was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the Lord." Enos means "frail one; mortal one." Seth gave his son a name which was indicative of the human race. Man needs God. Worship (Greek—proskuneo) means to prostrate oneself in homage, to adore and reverence. No doubt Seth had learned from the living influence of his righteous brother Abel, who was a true worshipper through and through (Heb. 11:4).

(To be continued)

News and Notes

- Our Third Sunday Singing and Fellowship Meal will be on August 17th. Please bring a dish and a friend.
- We express our deepest sympathy to the Grisham and Rivera families. Ms. Betty Grisham passed away on Friday evening. She was such a sweet, loving, christian woman and will truly be missed here at Chalmette. Funeral arrangements have not been made at this time. Please keep Sondra and Olivia Rivera in your prayers at this difficult time as well as the rest of the family.
- Please keep Malcom and Marlene Vazquez in your prayers at this time. Malcom was diagnosed with cancer.
- Please keep Mickey Harrison and David Desambourg in your prayers at this time as they as both recovering from recent surgeries.
- Please keep Alexis Hall in your prayers at this time. She is the granddaughter of Sylvia Hall. Alexis was in a serious accident this past week and has still not woken up from the accident.
- Please keep Alice Riley, and Margo Rodney in your prayers at this time as they are in poor health.
- Please keep Keiane Johnson in your prayers at this time. He is suffering from leukemia and will be undergoing a bone marrow transplant.
- Please keep Emily Menesses in your prayers at this time, she is in the hospital and is paralyzed from the waist down.

August Birthdays

5th- Malcolm Vazquez

7th-Doris Kennedy

11th-Emily Stafford

12th-Sharon Brock

14th-Jackie Gamble

16th- Tracy Stafford

23rd-Robert Gillard

25th-MaryJo Lance

26th-Carol Calix

Prayer List



**Alice Riley & family
Sherry Towle
Margo Rodney
Judy Hennessee
Ella Gillard
Krisztian Montague
Linda Swanner
Jackie Gamble
Addrean Jenkins
Gloria Smiles
Joel James
David Ebeling
Ryker Amaya
Raymond Sanchez
Gary Huettmann
Malcolm & Marlene Vazquez
Sondra & Olivia Rivera**

***All of our brethren scattered across
the United States & our troops in
Iraq**



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Services of The Church Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

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