

A SURE FOUNDATION

Building Your Life on the Rock of Scripture

“THESE WORDS OF MINE...”

- **Matthew 7:24-27:** “Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

OUR FOUNDATION

- **7 DIVINE CHARACTERISTICS OF SCRIPTURE WHICH MAKE IT THE SURE FOUNDATION FOR OUR LIVES**

SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED

- 2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is inspired by God.”
- K.S. Kantzer: ““Biblical inspiration [is the] . . . work of the Holy Spirit by which, without setting aside their personalities and literary or human faculties, God so guided the authors of Scripture as to enable them to write exactly the words which convey His truth to men, and in doing so preserved their judgments from error in the original manuscripts.”

SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED

- ALL Scripture:
 - Includes the Old Testament: 2,000 times the Old Testament says it is God's Word
 - Includes the New Testament
 - 2 Peter 3:2: "that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles."

SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED

All Scripture includes the Epistles:

2 Peter 3:15-16: and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED

- All Scripture includes the Gospels:
- 1 Timothy 5:18: For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing,” (quoted from Deut. 25:4) and “The laborer is worthy of his wages.” (quoted from Luke 10:7—the words of Jesus)

SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED

- All Scripture is INSPIRED by God
 - Literally: God-breathed
 - When God exhaled He spoke this book

SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED

- J.I. Packer: “Scripture, as a whole and in all its parts, [is] the utterance of God: God’s word set down in writing, his mind opened and his thoughts declared for man’s instruction. The content of Scripture is God’s eternal truth...in this sense, what our Scriptures have set down and written, is all but extracts and copies taken out of the Scriptures in God’s heart, in which they were written from everlasting.”
- If all Scripture is truly ALL Scripture, then don’t have a canon within the canon!

SCRIPTURE IS INERRANT

- John Feinberg:
 - “Inerrancy means that when all the facts are known, the Scriptures in their original autographs...will be shown to be wholly true in everything that they affirm, whether that has to do with doctrine or morality or with the social, physical, or life sciences”
- Jesus said in John 10:35: “The Scripture cannot be broken.”

SCRIPTURE IS INERRANT

- “The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact” (Grudem)
- Proverbs 30:6: “Every word of God is pure.”
- John 17:17: “Your Word is truth.”
- Psalm 19:7 “The law of the Lord is perfect.”
- Psalm 19:8: “The precepts of the LORD are right.”
- Psalm 19:9: “The judgments of the LORD are true”

SCRIPTURE IS INERRANT

- With doctrines we do not fully understand there is a difference between:
 - a spirit of belief/submission
 - a spirit of unbelief/rebellion

SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17: “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

Content	Conduct
Teaching (+) Reproof (-)	Correction (-) Training in Righteousness (+)

SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE: CONTENT

- Teaching (+):
 - the positive body of doctrine that the Scripture gives to us to believe
- Reproof (-)
 - The negative correction of False Doctrine

SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE: CONDUCT

- Correction (-)
 - Negatively straightens you out to live your life
 - Rebukes wrong behavior

- Training in Righteousness (+)
 - Positively trains you for righteous living

SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE

- v 17: “so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”
- Content, then conduct.
- Right Doctrine leads to Right Living.

SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE

- Scripture is the basis of our relationships with one another
- Doctrinally—Scripture unites us
- Practically—Scripture guides us
- We must help each other fight the deception of sin with the truth of God's Word

SCRIPTURE IS PROFITABLE

- **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** says this about the place of Scripture in fellowship: “If somebody asks [a Christian], Where is your salvation, your righteousness? He can never point to himself. He points to the Word of God in Jesus Christ which assures him of salvation and righteousness...God has put this Word into the mouth of men in order that it may be communicated to other men. God has willed that we should seek him and find his living Word in the witness of a brother, in the mouth of a man. Therefore, a Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged. He needs his brother man as a bearer and proclaimer of the divine word of salvation. The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain; his brother's is sure.”

SCRIPTURE IS AUTHORITATIVE

- Grudem says, “The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God’s Words in such a way that to disbelieve and disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.”
- Isaiah 1:2: says, "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth, for the Lord hath spoken." You better listen, God has spoken.
- John 14:15: “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”
- Think of the Procrustean Bed

SCRIPTURE IS EFFECTIVE

- It accomplishes its divine purpose
 - Isaiah 55:11-12: "So shall My Word be that goes forth. It shall not return unto Me void but shall accomplish what I please."
- Including salvation
 - Psalm 19:7 says, "The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul."

“Tokichi Ishii was a man hanged for murder in Tokyo in 1918. Tokichi had been sent to prison more than 20 times and was known for being one of the most cruel men in Japan. One time, he attacked a prison guard so badly that for his punishment he was gagged and bound and his body was hanged from the ceiling in such a way that his toes barely touched the ground. But he was so stubborn that he refused to be sorry for what he had done. He was lost in sin. However, just before being sentenced to death, Tokichi was sent a New Testament by 2 Christian missionaries. He read this book, and he was pierced by the story of Jesus, when Jesus said, “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Tokichi said these words: listen to them: “I stopped: I was stabbed to the heart, as if by a five-inch nail. What did the verse reveal to me? Shall I call it the love of the heart of Christ? Shall I call it his compassion? I do not know what to call it. I only know that with an unspeakably grateful heart I believed.” Tokichi was sentenced to death and accepted it as “the fair, impartial judgment of God.” He knew he deserved to die. After he was saved, he wrote, “Locked up in a prison cell six feet by nine in size I am infinitely happier than I was in the days of my sinning when I did not know God. Day and night...I am talking with Jesus Christ. Perhaps in the future, someone in the world may hear that the most desparate villain that ever lived repented of his sins and was saved by the power of Christ, and so may come to repent also.” On the scaffold, when he was hanged to death for his crimes, he said these last words right before he died: ‘My soul, purified, today returns to the city of God.’”

SCRIPTURE IS DETERMINATIVE

- How you respond to this book shows if you are saved or not
- MacArthur says, “It is the Word of God that separates men and women. It is the Word of God that becomes the dividing line between those who are in the Kingdom of God and those who are out of it. It is the Word of God that distinguishes between the saved and the lost. It is the Word of God that distinguishes between those who will go to heaven and those who will spend eternity in hell. It is the Word of God that separates those who are God's children from those who are Satan's children. The Word of God is the determining factor.”

SCRIPTURE IS DETERMINATIVE

- This book determines heaven and hell
- Complete indifference to the Word is a giveaway that a person is not of God
- John 8:47: "He that is of God hears God's words. You therefore hear them not because you are not of God."

SCRIPTURE IS DESIRABLE

- Ps 119:20: “My soul is crushed with longing after your ordinances at all times.”
- Ps 19:10: “The Word of God is more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.”

SCRIPTURE IS DESIRABLE

- If you truly love Jesus, you will love His Word
- John 14:21: "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

SCRIPTURE IS DESIRABLE

- George Muller: “I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not, how much I might serve the Lord, how I might glorify the Lord; but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man may be nourished...I saw that the most important thing I had to do was to give myself to the reading of the Word of God and to meditation on it.”

SCRIPTURE IS DESIRABLE

“Dr. Thomas Goodwin, having heard much of Mr. Rogers of Dedham, took a journey to hear him preach on his lecture day. Mr. Rogers was on the subject of the Scriptures. And in that sermon he falls into an expostulation with the people about their neglect of the Bible. He [impersonates] God to the people, telling them, ‘Well, I have trusted you so long with my Bible; you have slighted it, it lies in such and such houses all covered with dust and cobwebs; you care not to listen to it. Do you use my Bible so? Well, you shall have my Bible no longer.’ And he takes up the Bible from his cushion, and seemed as if he were going away with it and carrying it from them; but immediately turns again and [impersonates] the people to God, falls down on his knees, cries and pleads most earnestly, ‘Lord, whatever thou dost to us, take not thy Bible from us; kill our children, burn our houses, destroy our goods; only spare us thy Bible, only take not away thy Bible.’ And he impersonates God again to the people: “Say you so? Well, I will try you a while longer, and here is my Bible for you. I will see how you will use it, whether you will love it more...observe it more, practice it more, and live more according to it.”

SCRIPTURE IS DESIRABLE



