

## Study 0034

### Scripture Text: *Hebrews 5:11—6:3*

We shall, in this study, attempt to summarize all that we have studied over the last thirty (30) Studies on the Christian foundation.

For anyone to be called a Christian, (that is, someone who will endure temptations, trials, and tribulations, and overcome same till the end; and who will live as Christ would), he should not just have any foundation, but a foundation that is good firm, sure, tried, precious, and everlasting. Such a foundation can only be based on a personal revelation of Jesus Christ (as Messiah/Saviour, and Son of God/Master); and a dedicated adherence to the teachings of Christ; as well as of the apostles and the prophets. A faulty or wobbly foundation results from not having a personal revelation of Who Jesus Christ is; not adhering to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostles/prophets; and, following or heeding the teachings/commandments of men (culture, tradition, philosophy, science, etc.).

If you have built your life on a faulty or wobbly foundation, what you need to do is, demolish all that has been built on that faulty or wobbly foundation; demolish the faulty or wobbly foundation itself; and then, start laying that good, firm, sure, tried, precious, and everlasting foundation which is based on Jesus Christ. In order to successfully lay the required foundation, you will need to have listening and attentive ears; seeing and anointed eyes; a good, believing, obedient and understanding heart; and, a willingness to put into practice all that is required of you (**James 1:21-25**). This is where our submission to Christ through being born again comes in: except we are born again, it will be difficult for us to be able to have the attributes required for building a good, firm, sure, tried, precious, and everlasting foundation (**Matthew 12:33**)!

A good, firm, sure, tried, precious, and everlasting foundation, which is also known as, the Christian faith foundation, or simply, Christian foundation, is laid on the bedrock of the finished work of Christ. The bedrock of the finished work of Christ is the totality of all that Christ did on the cross at Calvary, and by His resurrection. Jesus Christ atoned for our sins, and relieved us of any obligation to pay for sins ever again. He enabled us to ask for and receive forgiveness for our sins. He paid the purchase price for man through His blood, thus, redeeming man from bondage and servitude to the devil and the world system. As a result, all men can be justified (treated as though they have no sin whatsoever), and declared to be righteous. All those who are justified and made righteous, automatically become sons of God by adoption. All these put together constitute salvation—that is, the rescue and deliverance of man from past sins, present satanic attacks, and the future judgment of the world. If a person has therefore not been thus saved, he shall be unable to sustain and maintain a viable and vigorous Christian life; and, on the last day, he shall surely be ashamed and disappointed! But all those who put their trust in Jesus' finished work as being sufficient for their salvation, are saved, and safe from the beggarly elements of this world. If a person has been saved, and is yet subject to the devil, it can only mean that such a person is ignorant of what has been done for him; or, is backslidden and fallen back into the den of the devil.

It is one thing to be saved; it is another thing altogether to benefit from the fruit of being saved. An illustration is appropriate at this point in time: when a baby is born, nothing is done by the baby to be born. The baby is conceived by both parents, brought forth by its mother, and cleaned by the midwives; afterwards, for the baby to grow healthy, he must be fed with the right food; and that way the joy of the baby being born is realised. What happens

to the baby up to the time of birth and cleansing can be likened to the bedrock of the finished work of Christ; and what happens after birth and cleansing, can be likened to the laying of Christian foundation (**1 Peter 2:1-3**). A person who is genuinely born again must submit to foundational doctrines or teachings, otherwise, he will not have a healthy growth and development. Hence, the bible tells us that for the time when some Christians should have been teaching others the word of God, they have need to be taught the first principles of the oracles of God (**Hebrews 5:12**). The first principles of the oracles of God are: repentance from dead works, faith toward God, the teachings on baptisms, the teachings on laying on of hands, the teaching on resurrection, and, the teaching on eternal judgment. A well nurtured and developed believer in the Lord Jesus Christ must not only know what these first principles are, but must also be established in them as they are formed into his life.

Repentance is the first layer of the Christian foundation, and it means a turning away from things that lead to death, and a turning towards the things that lead to life. When repentance is not genuine, it is evident and there is always a falling away soon afterwards (**2 Corinthians 7:7-11**). For repentance to be genuine, it should result from the realization and acknowledgement of one's sins, followed by a confession and repudiation of sin. Every genuine act of repentance from dead works must include; the removal of every object of sin and dead works from our lives, the restitution of our ways, and the commencement of good works henceforth. In turning away from the things that lead to death or dead works, the believer must turn to God in faith. This is the second layer of the Christian foundation, and it involves developing absolute trust in God on anything and everything. This implies that a person who has repented from the deeds that lead to death, has turned to God in faith, and is now living his life by trusting God alone in all that he does (**Ephesians 2:20; Galatians 2:20**). Faith towards God means that we believe all that God tells us and act on his every word, and this is what is meant by life, godly living, or the spiritual life (**Deuteronomy 8:1-3; Romans 1:17**). The third layer of the Christian foundation is our immersion into Christ by faith (that is, baptisms). After a person believes in Christ, he is immersed (or baptized) into the body of Christ, and is thus united with Him along with other believers, in a positional sense (**Ephesians 1:3**). He is also brought into the kingdom of God and His Christ, where he begins to live a new life, and publicly denounces all ties with the devil (**Romans 6:3-4**). He is immersed in the Holy Spirit, and thereby endued with power to be able to do all that Christ wants him to do on earth (**Acts 1:8; 2:1-4**). Finally, he is brought into the same experience of suffering as Christ endured, so that he can manifest the true character and nature of Christ as he is purified and purged on a continual basis (**Philippians 3:8-10**). The fourth layer of the Christian foundation instructs the believer about how he can receive and dispense spiritual blessings. We must observe due diligence before we impart certain blessings on certain people, especially when the blessing is an ordination and consecration unto service. We also should be mindful of those who lay hands on us, as the laying on of hands is transference of spirits; hence, we should be sure it is the Holy Spirit we are receiving. As to the matter of resurrection, which is the fifth layer of the Christian foundation, we should be aware that the dead do indeed rise. Christ died and was raised up again by the power of the Holy Spirit, and has thus become the first-fruit of resurrection. Although there is the temporary resurrection, which occurs essentially to raise a person who has died before his time back to life; there is the permanent resurrection, which is the essential theme of the resurrection of the dead. Christ's resurrection is the first-fruit of this permanent resurrection; while the resurrection of those who have died as believers in Christ and those who are still believers in Christ at the Second Coming, is known as the first resurrection; and, the resurrection of everyone else (those who died without Christ, and those who are alive but without Christ at the end of the age) is known as the final resurrection. While the first resurrection will take place at the

Rapture and the Tribulation Period (for the 144,000 Jews only), the final resurrection will take place at the end of the age, just before this present world is destroyed, and a new heaven and earth made. We must resist every attempt to call the resurrection of the dead into question. The final layer of the Christian foundation is the affirmation that there will be eternal judgment. Eternal judgment is a matter of rewards and punishment; rewards for the believers in Christ; and punishment for all others (those who rejected Christ). Eternal judgment is real and will take place in two tranches: the first, will follow immediately after the first resurrection, and will be for the giving of eternal rewards to believers in Christ, and will include crowns, and mansions; and the second, will be after the Millennial Reign of Christ, and will be the declaration of eternal sentences upon all who lived apart from Christ, while here on earth, and will be served in hell, where all who are there, will be eternally separated from God.

The fusion of the finished work of Christ and the Christian foundation makes for a thoroughly developed believer in Christ, who will not be moved no matter what the devil and his cohorts throw at him. Such a person can indeed be called a Christian (**Acts 11:26; John 8:31**), and is ready for progress on to maturity.

### **EXERCISE**

Please answer True or False to the statements below.

- 1) The basis of a good Christian Foundation is a well-articulated Sunday School or Bible Study.
- 2) A good Christian Foundation prevents temptations, trials, and tribulations from coming to a Christian.
- 3) A well laid Christian Foundation enables a Christian overcome temptations, trials, and tribulations, and to successfully go through persecution without giving up.
- 4) A study of other religions is a very good safety net against falling into temptation from demons of religion.
- 5) Teachings from sources other than the bible enables the Christian to be effective in matters like leadership, handling money, wealth creation, propagation of the gospel, etc., which brings glory to God.
- 6) A solid Christian foundation cannot stand where the individual's heart (spirit or inner man) is unable to receive the word of God.
- 7) When a person is saved through the finished work of Jesus Christ, he still needs to go to a powerful deliverance minister to deal with ancestral and generational curses, otherwise, his salvation is questionable.
- 8) When a person is saved, it is just as if he had never committed any sin before in his life.
- 9) Salvation as a Christian concept includes, salvation from the punishment for past sins, deliverance from present satanic attacks through knowledge of the word of God, and the assurance of acquittal from eternal judgment, provided the Christian lives in accordance with the Will of God, thenceforth.
- 10) If a person has truly been saved through the finished work of Christ, he will strongly desire the word of God, and will be repulsed by sin.
- 11) The first principles of the oracle of God include, repentance, giving, tithing, church attendance, and water baptism.
- 12) Genuine repentance from dead works must include doing away with actions, attitudes, and activities that make us engage in dead works.
- 13) A dead work is an activity that has to do with things related to secular funeral and burial rites for the dead.

- 14) The difference between repentance from sin and repentance from dead works is that the former must first take place before the latter.
- 15) The Christian is expected to live all his life trusting and depending solely on God.
- 16) A Christian is not expected to be a robot, hence, he is free to live without being inhibited by rules and regulations, even if they are in the bible.
- 17) Baptism is an optional aspect of a Christian's walk—you don't have to be baptized.
- 18) There are in fact four baptisms, namely; baptism into a church, the baptism of John the Baptist, spiritual baptism, and, fire baptism.
- 19) The best practices of the laying on of hands on a Christian requires that there be a solid, on-going relationship between the person laying hands, and the person upon whom hands are laid.
- 20) If a man dies, and he is prayed back to life, that is the resurrection of the dead; and such a person will not die again.
- 21) Jesus Christ did not resurrect. He was translated into heaven, just like Elijah.
- 22) The hope of every true believer in Christ is that he will be raised back to life to live eternally with God in heaven.
- 23) The doctrine of Eternal Judgment is a matter of rewards and punishment.
- 24) There is going to be one last opportunity after a man has died to receive Christ. It is only if he then refuses, that eternal punishment will take effect.
- 25) The knowledge of Christian Foundation makes for a well-rounded and mature Christian who is set for heaven.
- 26) The sacrifices which the native doctors make in our villages can be likened to the sacrifice of Christ, and hence, a person can be cleansed from sin by either sacrifice.
- 27) Through redemption, man has been bought back from Satan by the blood of Jesus Christ, who is man's kinsman redeemer, which is why He called Himself, Son of Man.
- 28) To redeem a man from slavery is to save him from the shackles of oppression, which is what happens when people are saved or rescued from sin and the devil.
- 29) Anyone who has been redeemed by Jesus Christ, has been freed from every curse that ran from Adam to his own parents.
- 30) Adoption is the concept which speaks of the believer in Christ becoming a son of God, and is a direct consequence of redemption.
- 31) By adoption, a Christian has equal rights to the commonwealth of God, as Jesus Christ has.
- 32) The message of salvation is one that seeks to bring a person to the realization of his sinfulness and the fact that sin is an offence against God, with a view to making him seek God's forgiveness through his admittance of guilt of sin.
- 33) What makes the Good News, good news, is because man can now live free of sin, even if he makes a practice of sin—that is, the sin has been forgiven even before it is committed.
- 34) For righteousness to be imputed by God upon a person, all he needs to do is believe (and confess) that Jesus Christ has paid the price for his sin—no more, no less.
- 35) Although righteousness is imputed by God on a man, yet he must learn and begin to walk in righteousness—that is, live according to God's standard for man.