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Series: The Resurrections

The Resurrections (33)

The Judgment of Seat of Christ (8)

[\(1 Corinthians 3:10-17\)](#)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Matthew 28:1-10](#)

(Continuation from 11-28-10)

The Doctrine of the Resurrections

[\(1 Corinthians 3:10-17\)](#)

The judgment of the works of the believers (8)

3. (1 Corinthians 3:11) Jesus Christ, Foundation— Jesus Christ, Deity; Spokesman; Mediator— Church, Foundation: there is the only foundation, Jesus Christ Himself.

1 Corinthians 3:11 (NASB)

¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

All other foundations are as *sinking sand*. They cannot stand up against the storms of life. No man—no matter who he is—can lay any other foundation that can last. All other foundations will crumble and be destroyed forever.

What does it mean to say that Christ is the only foundation? Before addressing this question I want to say in parenthesis that there are two, two groups of people that I want to speak to this morning. Notice what I said there are two, two groups of people. The first group are those who are genuinely born again believers and the other are false religious professing Christians. The second group is obedient and disobedient hearers. I want to address the similarities and differences between these groups of people because traditionally the church has these groups of people within its midst. I want to specifically focus on the latter group of false religious professing Christians and disobedient hearers. Let's return to our question; what does it mean to say that Christ is the only foundation?

1. It means that Christ Himself, His person, is the only foundation upon which men can build their lives. ([Matthew 7:24-27](#))

The evidence that the many ([vv. 13, 22](#)) who are in the broad way will not enter the kingdom is that their lives are not built on the foundation of Christ and His Word.

Matthew 7:13 (NASB)

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

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Matthew 7:22 (NASB)

²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'"

Again Jesus picks up the theme of man's own righteousness, the righteousness that is totally unacceptable to God and that will in no way qualify a person for His kingdom ([Matthew 5:20](#)).

In the first illustration ([vv. 21-23](#)) we see a contrast between the true and false verbal professions of faith and good works.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NASB)

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter."

²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'"

²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"

Here we see contrasts between obedient and disobedient hearers. Both groups hear God's true Word, but some hear and obey, and some hear and disobey; some turn their trust to God's righteousness, and some continue trusting in their own, though that does not become visible until the judgment.

The implication is that even those who disobey believe that they belong to Christ and make a convincing profession of faith in Him. They hear God's Word and recognize it as God's Word, but wrongly believe that simply knowing and recognizing it are enough to please God and guarantee them a place in His kingdom. Like those who say, "Lord, Lord," and do amazing religious works but really "practice lawlessness," the false hearers build their religious house, but are self-deceived as to its viability.

In the illustration of those who make false professions, the true believers are mentioned only by implication ("**not everyone who says to me,**" [v. 21](#)). In the illustration of the hearers and builders, however, both the true and the false believers are clearly described. In these two groups we see many similarities but also some radical differences. ([Matthew 7:21-23](#))

Similarities

First of all, both builders have heard the gospel. **Everyone who hears these words of Mine** applies both to the **wise man** ([Matthew 7:24](#)) and to the **foolish man** ([Matthew 7:26](#)). They both know the way of salvation.

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Second, they both proceed to build a **house** after they have heard the way of salvation. The **wise man** builds his house, which represents his life, on **these words of Mine**. The implication is that the **foolish man**, although he **does not act upon** Christ's **words**, thinks that his **house** is secure simply because he has heard and acknowledged the **words**. He believes the life he lives is Christian and therefore pleasing to God. He does not intentionally build a **house** he thinks is going to **fall**. Both builders have confidence their houses will stand; but one man's confidence is in the Lord and the other man's is in himself.

Third, both builders build their houses in the same general location, evidenced by their apparently being hit by the same storm. In other words, the outward circumstances of their lives were essentially the same. One had no advantage over the other. They lived in the same town and possibly attended the same church, heard the same preaching, went to the same Bible study and fellowshiped with the same friends.

Fourth, the implication is that they built the same kind of **house**. Outwardly their houses were very much alike. From all appearances the **foolish man** lived much in the same way as the **wise man**. We might say they are both religious, theologically orthodox, and moral, served in the church, supported it financially, and were responsible citizens of the community. They seemed to believe alike and live alike.

Differences

The differences between the two builders and the two houses they built were not noticeable from the outside. But they were immeasurably more important than the similarities. The key is to understand that one does act upon God's Word (**obedience**) and the other **does not act upon** His Word (**disobedience**). One builds using the divine specifications, the other uses his own.

By far the greatest difference between the specifications of these builders and the way they build is in the foundations they laid. **The wise man...built his house upon the rock**, whereas the **foolish man...built his house upon the sand**.

[Matthew 7:24 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁴“Therefore 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.

[Matthew 7:26 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁶Everyone 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.

Petra (**rock**) does not mean a stone or even a boulder, but a great outcropping of rock, a large expanse of bedrock. It is solid, stable, and unmovable. **Sand**, by contrast, is loose, unstable, and extremely movable. The land agents selling lots on the sand are the false prophets Jesus has just warned about ([Matthew 7:15-20](#)).

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The scribes and Pharisees had a complex and involved set of religious traditions which they regarded as having great value before God. But all those traditions were external, superficial, and unstable. They had no spiritual or moral substance or stability. They were shifting **sand**, composed entirely of the opinions, speculations, and standards of men. Those who created and followed them took no account of obedience to God's Word, purity of the heart, spirituality of the soul, or integrity of behavior. Their only concern was for appearance, the compelling desire to be seen and **“honored by men”** ([Matthew 6:2](#)).

As **Arthur Pink** says of such people,

They bring their bodies to the house of prayer but not their souls; they worship with their mouths, but not **“in spirit and in truth.”** They are sticklers for immersion baptism or early morning communion, yet take no thought about keeping their hearts with all diligence. They boast of their orthodoxy; but disregard the precepts of Christ. Multitudes of professing Christians abstain from external acts of violence, yet hesitate not to rob their neighbors of a good name by spreading evil reports against them. They contribute regularly to the **“church,”** but shrink not from misrepresenting their goods and cheating their customers, persuading themselves that **“business is business.”** They have more regard for the laws of man than those of God, for His fear is not before their eyes.

[4. \(1 Corinthians 3:12\) Church— Teachers, False: there is the structure: It can be built out of two possible materials: either permanent or perishable materials.](#)

[1 Corinthians 3:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw.

There may be only one foundation, and it may be laid by Christ and His apostles, but there are many different kinds of materials within the market of the world. And the believer must choose which material he will use to build his part of the church. It can be built of **two possible materials**: **“It could be the materials that remain or the ones that perish”**.

1. There are the permanent and valuable materials, the materials that are not corruptible and do not deteriorate and decay like the things of this earth.

Permanent materials last forever; they are incorruptible and undefiled and do not fade away. Scripture says they can be compared to gold, silver, and precious stones. What are the permanent materials? Scripture describes them in many ways.

Several examples would be as follows.

- a. They are the fruit of the Spirit, the spiritual qualities that last beyond this life. Again, these are the things that the believer is to use in building the church. ([Galatians 5:22-23](#))

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- b. They are *the things* which are to be added to our faith.
They are the lasting things that are so desperately needed by the church, and they are the things that the believer is to use in building the church. ([2 Peter 1:5-11](#))
 - c. They are the souls and lives of men, women, boys, and girls who become living stones in the church. ([1 Peter 2:4-5](#); [Mark 16:15](#); [Matthew 16:26](#))
2. There are the perishable and combustible materials.

They are the materials and things of this earth that are corruptible; that rust, decay, and deteriorate. Scripture says they can be compared to wood, hay, and stubble. What are the perishable materials?

Again, Scripture describes them in many ways.

- a. They are the treasures, wealth, and cares of this world.
([Matthew 6:19-21](#); [Mark 4:19](#))
- b. They are the works of the flesh.
([Galatians 5:19-21](#))
- c. They are the false teachings that are always dangerously floating around believers and the church.
([Matthew 7:15](#); [Matthew 7:22-23](#); [Matthew 15:9](#); [Matthew 15:13](#); [Galatians 4:9](#); [Colossians 2:8](#); [1 Timothy 6:3-5](#); [2 Timothy 2:14-16](#); [2 Peter 2:1-3](#); [1 John 4:1-5](#))