

# REMEMBER

## The Foundation

Luke 6:47-49

WELCOME: Thank you for the way you have received our news about retirement. You have been both understanding and encouraging. Let me encourage you. Work on the transition has begun! The Nominating Team begins work this week to bring you a recommendation to get a Pastor Search Team started. The Personnel Team is starting work also on the transition in the Kid Zone. The Deacons will be working on the transition in Pastoral duties and preaching. This Wednesday is our Quarterly Church Conference. Next Wednesday, June 1, is a Special Called Church Conference for the church to consider recommendations concerning the transition.

Now, ...

I have been praying for a long time about what I would preach in my final four Sundays with you, long before we could determine an appropriate date because we were still working on getting construction started on the Worship Center.

I believe it was the Lord who put a single word in my mind: REMEMBER.

Each of these four weeks I am going to ask you to remember something of great importance to each of you individually and to this great church we all love.

- What I ask you to remember is not what Bro. Mike said. In fact, I tell you now, I do not want you to ever use those words with your next pastor.
- It is fine to quote me to each other while I am your pastor, but when God brings a new man to lead you, I do not want to be an unwelcome shadow to him.
- What I ask you to remember is not what I say, but what God has said.

I follow the example here of Moses, as he led Israel through the wilderness.

**Numbers 15:39–40 NKJV ... remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, 40 and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God.**

Jesus taught us to remember to build the right foundation.

Luke 6:47–49 NKJV 47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:

48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid **the foundation** on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”

**Whoever ... hears My sayings and does them ... is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.**

**TO BUILD THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LIVES UPON THE ROCK** (so that it can stand against the storms of life) **WE MUST BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS TOTALLY TRUE.**

Jesus believed the Bible was totally true!

Matthew 5:18 NKJV For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

- The jot (yod in Hebrew) was the smallest letter. It looks like an apostrophe.
- The tittle (Hebrew keriah) was a part of a letter like the crossing of a t.
- Specifically the law was what we call the first five books of the Bible.
  - So, think about this. Genesis was the first book of the law.
  - Then that means that Jesus Himself said that not the smallest part of Genesis would pass away until all of it is fulfilled.
  - This means that Jesus specifically affirmed the truthfulness of the Genesis account of creation. Jesus even spoke of Adam and Eve as real, historical people.
  - If you are unwilling to believe in a literal six day creation, how do you call yourself a Christ follower?
    - I am not saying you are not a Christian.
    - But clearly Jesus affirmed Genesis as true,
    - so how do you say it is not true yet claim to follow Him?

- Many of you remember my testimony. I was already saved when I began to doubt the veracity of Scripture as a freshman in college.
  - Now doubting Genesis and other passages could not take away my salvation,
  - but I certainly was not following Jesus in my disbelief.
  - And my disbelief very much prevented me from building a foundation on the rock that could withstand the storms of life.
- I thank God often for delivering me from my pride and willful ignorance. Once I humbled myself and sought the truth, God made the truthfulness of Genesis and all of His Word clear to me.

I know that if someone asked most of you, what has Bro. Mike harped on the most in his preaching and teaching, you would say, "He harps on the theme that the Bible is absolutely true!"

But understand this: I proclaim this truth often because the Bible itself proclaims it so often!

Psalm 19:7-9 NKJV 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, ...;

The testimony of the LORD is sure, ...;

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, ...;

The commandment of the LORD is pure, ...;

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, ...;

The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Psalm 119:89 NKJV Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

Psalm 119:160 NKJV The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.

Isaiah 40:8 NKJV The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, ...

Another reason I have harped so much on this principle is

**TO BUILD THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LIVES UPON THE ROCK** (so that it can stand against the storms of life) **WE MUST OBEY AND PRACTICE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS.**

Again, listen now to Jesus. These are not the words of Bro. Mike. I just repeat the words of our Master.

John 17:17,19b NKJV **"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ... that they also may be sanctified by the truth.**

Sanctify means to make holy. You can call it many things.

- Growing in Christ
- Becoming more like Jesus
- Becoming a disciple
- Following the Lord
- Building a foundation

But no matter what you call it,

**Without believing and obeying the Word of God, you will not**

- **Grow in Christ**
- **Become more like Jesus**
- **Become a disciple**
- **Follow the Lord**
- **Build a foundation for your life that endures**

**It cannot happen!**

Psalm 119:98-100 NKJV You, **through Your commandments**, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, For **Your testimonies** are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable**

- for doctrine,
- for reproof,
- for correction,
- for instruction in righteousness,

that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

**TO BUILD THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LIVES UPON THE ROCK** (so that it can stand against the storms of life) **WE MUST BELIEVE, OBEY, AND PRACTICE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS.**

**BELIEVING, OBEYING, AND PRACTICING WHAT GOD SAYS IN HIS WORD CLARIFIES THE DIFFICULT MORAL ISSUES OF OUR DAY** (for both the individual and the church.)

- **Homosexuality**
- **Gay marriage**
- **Gender identity**
- **Living together outside of marriage**
- **Abortion**
- There remains a great divide in our nation about each of these issues.
- There are people who identify as Christians who are on either side of all of these.
- But there is no ambivalence in the Word of God, and those who believe that word is absolutely true, find clear guidance as they seek to know the mind of God in these matters.

Folks, people who believe God's Word is totally true, and they continually strive to obey and practice it, are never confused about right or wrong. They know what God says, and that means they know where they stand.

People who do not believe in the complete trustworthiness of the Scriptures languish in confusion and ambivalence on almost every moral issue, trying to weigh the value of different human perspectives.

If a church does not have a devotion to the doctrine of verbal inspiration, the teaching that the very words of the original text were breathed out by God, it too will meander back and forth with the sway of the culture.

CONCLUSION: A man in my church told me the true story of a preacher in his childhood community. He went to the hospital to comfort a man who was near death. The man said to him, "Preacher pick up my Bible and read me something from it." The preacher picked up the man's Bible off the table in his hospital room and opened it, surprised to find the pages inside all cut up, with many portions of the text completely missing. The preacher exclaimed, "Man, what happened to your Bible?" The man replied, "Well pastor, every time you told me something in the Bible wasn't really so, I just cut it out and threw it away. What you have in your hand is all that's left."

My friend, **REMEMBER THE FOUNDATION.**

Numbers 15:39–40 NKJV ... remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, 40 and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God.

**REMEMBER!**