



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 101.0

January 29
2016

Who's Foundation? What Context?

“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11 NASB).

Context is crucial in growing your understanding of something—it is the only sure foundation upon which to build and increase your knowledge. Without the proper context, our understanding will be slanted, cracked, or irregular because our foundation is wrong.

Every Believer has been tempted to utilize God's Word to support their “world-view.” But this is wrong. We cannot emphasize Scripture that we like (that appeals to our feelings, experiences, or intellect) and de-emphasize Scripture that doesn't seem to fit our view. When we do this, we are manufacturing our own context to try and understand God's character and nature—we are laying our own hodge-podge foundation to build our knowledge of Who God is and what we are to Him. Paul warned us, *“like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it, for no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ”* (1 Corinthians 3:10-11). We have seen people emphasize Scriptures out of context to represent God as an angry, vengeful “curmudgeon,” while others likewise paint God as an unholy, tolerant “hippie.” In like manner we are tempted at times to “cut and paste” His Word, laying Scriptures out of joint, pounding them into a “foundation” that will support our “dream house.”

But in order to do this, we have to tear up God's foundation that He has clearly given us in His Word for His House, the Church! He has already laid the foundation to establish Who He is and who we are as Believers in

Him. This foundation is Jesus Christ, and God tells us in His Word exactly what knowing Jesus intimately means for us. It is only through *“knowing Christ Jesus my Lord”* (Philippians 3:8) that we mature in the context of our adoption as Sons in *“God's household”* (Ephesians 2:19), and the Church's betrothal to Christ as His Bride (Ephesians 5:25-27). God has told us that because of Jesus, He IS our Father and we ARE His children, and He is telling us that Christ IS our husband and we ARE His bride. Without this relational context, we cannot hope to understand God's Word and concepts such as **Justification** (adoption/betrothal agreement), **Sanctification** (disciplined upbringing/betrothal period), or the **Resurrection and Rapture** (date set by the Father for our inheritance/Bride-groom's return for His bride to take her to her wedding). God didn't give us Jesus as a Foundation for us to ignore or overlook Him, but to have assurance about Who He is and who we are to Him.

We must take care that we are not making others build their understanding of Who God is upon OUR foundation. Therefore, *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are...men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and, ‘Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness’”* (2 Timothy 2:15-19). May we build our knowledge on the foundation of Jesus Christ only and what God has said in His Word—you are His Child and your are Christ's Bride! Amen.

Explore more devotionals, articles, sermons, and music from the Body of Christ—also sign up for the bi-monthly Newsletter and learn more about the Berean Christian Fellowship and its ministry, the Berean Lamp—by visiting us at www.bereanlamp.org