

The Church Today (Part2) The Foundation of the Church (Ephesians 2:19-20; II Peter 1:20-21)

Introduction: Today's message in our current series on The Church Today, is entitled "*The Foundation of the Church*". As it is with buildings, the study and understanding of the foundation of the church is very important because I believe that all God does, He does through the local church, which is that body of called out, Spirit-filled believers, who have banded together for the purpose of sharing Christ and the purpose of fellowship and ministry.

Our two text this morning firm for us through a key phrase, the church is "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets". So, Paul and Peter tell us here that the foundation of the church is the apostles and the prophets. What does that mean? It means the apostles and prophets are our foundation in the sense that God through them gave us the Holy Bible, the Word of God. So, it is important that we look today at the foundation of the church which is the Word of God.

I. It is a book of purity: (Prov. 30:5)

A. Some believe the Bible is truth mixed with error - There are some who have said (and believe) the Bible contains the Word of God but it also contains errors.

1. Well, if Jesus is the churches founder, (and He is), He said of the word of God, "*His Word is truth.*" (Jn. 17:17)
2. And He meant every word of it... It is all the Word of God, it is all truth, and it is very dangerous when you start talking about the Bible having a mixture of errors. You either have to accept all of it, or you have to reject all of it.

Without the Word of God, we have no solid foundation to build on. You see all of the Bible is the Word of God. Paul said, "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.*" (2 Tim. 3:16-17) From Genesis to the Revelation, all of it is given by the inspiration of God!

B. Some believe the Bible has scientific errors in it. I don't agree with that.

1. **First, the Bible is not a science book**, but science has proven the book to be right over and over again.
2. **The Bible is not like science still evolving**, God's Word has been established forever. (Ps. 119:89, 152, 160; Mt. 5:18; 24:34-35; 1 Pe. 1:25)

There are matters of science in the Bible for example, (Lev. 17:11, the creation account in Genesis. For years people taught the world was flat. Yet years ago, God said in His Word, "The Lord sits above the circle of the earth." (Isa. 40:22) So, the Bible does contain scientific facts.

The truth is when a science book comes out it is obsolete almost as soon as it is printed because science is constantly discovering new facts. But the Word of God never changes! The Bible is our foundation because it is a book of purity without error!

II. It is a book of prophecy:

A. The Bible is not a history book, it is a book with history - You can't study the prophecies of the Bible and study their fulfillment without coming away with the conclusion that the Bible must be the Word of God.

1. But the Bible is not a history book, it is book with history of prophecy, prophecies fulfilled and being fulfilled and only God can write a book like

that.

2. Prophecy is foretelling history before it happens. Only God can do that.
3. We see this in example after example about nations, individuals, kingdoms, the prophets, or religions in this Book. (example: Jer. 46:13)

B. The Bible is a book full of history of fulfilled prophecy Now the prophecies found in this book cause the intelligent mind to come away with the conclusion that the Bible has to be divinely written, it has to be the Word of God.

Ex: Every prophecy about Jesus' birth, life, death, burial and resurrection in the Old Testament (100's) were fulfilled and came true in the New Testament.

C. The Bible is book with a history of prophecy fulfilled, and being fulfilled – did you know the Bible of full of...

1. Prophecies that are being fulfilled before our very eyes.
2. You can stand with the newspaper, computer, iPhone or tablet in one hand and the Bible in the other and come to the conclusion that the Bible is the Word of God.

Four prophecies that you look for today.

1. The rise of modern Israel.

2. The rise of modern Russia predicted in Ezekiel 37-39

3. There is a reunification of the face of Europe. The Bible predicted a reunification of the old Roman Empire. **We are seeing that today** in the common market.

4. The rise of the military might of Red China. (Rev. 9:16)

(1 Pe. 1:24-25; Isa. 40:7-8) *Jesus* said, "*heaven and earth shall pass away but My Word will never pass away.*" The Word of God is a foundation because its prophecy can be trusted!

III. It is a book of power:

A. The Bible has great power - (Heb. 4:12; Jer. 23:29; Rom. 1:16; 10:16)

B. The Bible has the power to impact people from every walk of life and through the preaching of the Word of God when it is preached in the anointing and the power of the Holy Spirit.

That is why we have small groups that study the Word of God, and why everyone of you should be a part of one, so you too can know and experience its power in your lives. There is great power in the gospel of Jesus Christ, so the Church and our lives must be built upon the power of the Word of God.

C. The Bible has the power you need – When we come to the sure and steady Word, we find the only firm foundation we can stand.

1. God's word has the power to save us (1 Cor. 15:1-4)
2. God's Word has the power to transform us (Rom. 12:1-2)
3. God's Word has the power to guide us (Ps. 48:9-14)
4. God's Word has the power to strengthen us (1 Pe. 2:2)
5. God's Word has the power to prepare us to go into the world and share its power with others (Mt. 28:18-20)
6. God's Word has the power to reward us (1 Pe. 1:6-7)

There is great power in reading scripture and believing in its power. This is why the Word of God is the foundation upon which we build the church and our lives.