

Seek The Old Paths

"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths...and walk therein" (Jeremiah 6:16)

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If The Foundations Be Destroyed, What Can The Righteous Do?

Sidney White

David, in Psalm 11, is advised that Saul now regards neither truth nor justice. If truth and justice no longer are important, if the priests are being destroyed, if divine worship is being overthrown, what can a righteous man do? The advice of the counsellors is to "flee as a bird to your mountain" (v.1b). But David is not willing to flee. He knows the "Lord is in his holy temple" (v.4a) David's response to this advice forms the bulk of this Psalm. The Psalmist was in no way intimidated by the fury of the king, but rather expressed his trust in the Lord (v.1a).

This Psalm pictures dark times. Evil people are now in control. "Wrong" was in the saddle riding roughshod over "right." The foundations of a great nation are now crumbling. Note how Hosea, in the book bearing his name, describes the fall of Israel with seven basic accusations against them.

- (1) *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee" (4:6).*
- (2) *"And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face..." (5:5).*
- (3) *"O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? For your goodness is as a morning, and as the early dew it goeth away" (6:4).* The sin involved here is that of instability.
- (4) *"Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned" (7:8).* Ephraim is guilty of worldliness.
- (5) *"They have deeply corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah: therefore he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins" (9:9-10).*
- (6) *"And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called*

them to the most High, none at all would exalt him” (11:7).

- (7) *“And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding” (13:2-3).*

Idolatry was the ultimate state to which Israel had gone. When one rejects knowledge from God, he will begin to be filled with pride, which results in a state of instability. Those who are unstable will become worldly, being corrupted in mind and action. This leads away from God into idolatry. This is an accurate picture of what has happened and is happening in matters of religion today – even in the church of our Lord.

RESPECT FOR THE LAW OF GOD

One of the foundations destroyed was respect for the law of God. Note again Hosea 4:6, *“...seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”* *“Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them” (Malachi 3:7).* The people had been warned not to forget the law of God. Study passages such as Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and see how God has always kept this message before the people. *“Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.”* *“Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them”*

(Deut. 7:9,11). But lack of respect for God’s word is not only seen in a failure to do what he says, but is also seen in changing or tampering with his word. Yet God had repeatedly warned Israel of this as well. *“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”* *“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto nor diminish from it.”* *“Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar” (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6).* Yet when Jesus was on earth, he spent time in trying to straighten out the teaching of false doctrine because of changes that had been made by men. Matthew 5:21-48 is a good example of this. Then in Matthew 15:9 he shows the result of such changes... *“vain worship.”* *“Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number” (Jer. 2:32).*

WORSHIP TO GOD

Another foundation that was destroyed in Israel was that of *worship to God*. This has already been noted in Hosea 13:2-3, *“Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, wherein have we polluted thee” (Malachi 1:7-8)?* As early as the time of Nadab and Abihu the law of God and worship was not adhered to because they *“offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not” (Lev. 10:1-2).* Micah makes reference to the idolatry in Samaria and Jerusalem by saying, *“And all the*

graven images thereof shall be beaten to pieces, and all the hires thereof shall be burned with the fire, and all the idols thereof will I lay desolate...." (Micah 1:7). Micah also speaks of their formalism in worship. They go through the acts of worship and yet live as they please (Micah 6:6-9). See also Jeremiah 1:16.

STRONG LEADERSHIP

Further evidence of the corruption of Israel is seen in the breakdown of the foundation of *strong leadership*.

Micah spoke of the princes of the house of Israel *"who hate the good, and love the evil; who pluck off their skin from off them, and their flesh from off their bones; who also eat the flesh of my people, and flay their skin from off them; and they break their bones, and chop them in pieces, as for the pot, and as flesh within the caldron"* (Micah 3:1-3).

Corruption among the prophets is spoken of in verses 5-7 of the same chapter. *"Thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him."*

The priests did not escape corruption either. *"The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the Lord and say, Is not the Lord among us? none evil can come upon us"* (Micah 3:11).

When the prophets, priests and princes are corrupt, the people will become that way. In Micah 2:6, the prophet speaks of the corruption of the

people who say to the prophets, *"Prophecy ye not, say they to them that prophesy...."* Micah speaks of violence (2:2; 3:9), bribery (3:9), dishonesty (6:10), covetousness (2:2) and oppression (2:2). So once again the process is completed. The prophets, priests, princes and people are corrupted, therefore the principles upon which that great nation would stand are fallen, and so is the nation.

ZEAL IN SERVICE TO GOD

Once the foundations begin to crumble, there seems to be no stopping them. Another foundation principle of that great nation that crumbled was that of *zeal in their service to God*. They reached a point of not serving God with all their heart. *"Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images"* (Hosea 10:2). *"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountains of Samaria... that lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall..."* (Amos 6:1,4). Seen in this is the same attitude with which Jesus dealt in Revelation 3:14-22 in the church at Laodicea. They had become lukewarm, being neither cold nor hot; a condition that makes God sick. God has and continues to expect his people to serve him with zeal and enthusiasm.

MORAL AND SOCIAL

One must also see the breakdown in

the moral and social order of the day. *"Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood"* (Hosea 4:1-2). This list is much like the writings of Paul in Romans 1:18-32.

Man has always had a tendency to glory in himself and do things his own way. *"Thus saith the Lord, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches..."* (Jer. 9:23). Even when God, through the prophets like Jeremiah, would call the people back, they wouldn't listen. *"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, we will not walk therein"* (Jer. 6:16). Perhaps this same prophet shows the extreme condition of the people in chapter 5:1. *"Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it."* That sounds much like Abraham's plea for Sodom and Gomorrah. Surely there is someone who still appreciates truth and righteousness! *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and*

prudent in their own sight. Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him" (Isa. 5:20-23).

It is abundantly clear that the foundation principles which would have made Israel a great nation were destroyed. *"A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means: and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof"* (Jer. 5:30-31)? *"O lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps"* (Jer. 10:23).

What then is the solution to the problem? *"Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever."* *"Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord..."* *"If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the Lord, return unto me; and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove"* (Jer. 3:12,14; 4:1).

One must note how many times throughout the writings of the prophets we find the phrase that appears in Jeremiah 7:2, namely, *"Hear the word of the Lord."* *"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"* (Prov. 14:12). Those who have been responsible for destroying the foundations must leave their evil way and return to God.

WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?

But the latter part of our topic raises the question, "What can the righteous do?" Do the righteous just throw up their hands in disgust and quit? That is certainly one of the easiest ways to handle the situation, but is that the answer? Not at all! Note what David said. *"In the Lord I put my trust."* David was aware that God was still in control. *"The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men"* (Psalm 11:4). *"Blessed are they that put their trust in him"* (Psalm 2:12b). When men are content to disregard God's plan, we need more righteous people who will commit themselves to the Lord's cause. We need to have confidence in God's plan and promises. We must submit to his will. *"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man"* (Psalm 118:8). Trust in the Lord involves total submission of our will and way to his will and way. The message of the Bible is to serve God "with all thy heart", a phrase which appears approximately 40 times in the Bible. Study carefully Psalm 37:5, Proverbs 3:5 and Matthew 22:37. Trust in the Lord is summed up in I Samuel 3:9, *"...speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."* Verse one of that same context says, *"and the word of the Lord was precious in those days."* Trust in the Lord will cause us never to question what he says. It will create within us the attitude of Abraham as expressed in Genesis 22:8, "God will provide", and the comment made by the Hebrew writer with regard to this same

event, "God was able...." What can the righteous do when things seem to be falling apart? Trust in the Lord. Keep doing that which is right.

We must never lose sight of the fact that man will stand before the judge of all men on an individual basis. This lesson is clearly seen repeatedly in both the Old and New Testaments. Although *"every imagination of the thoughts of his (mankind) heart was only evil continually"*, *"Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord"* (Gen. 6:5b,8). When Goliath was putting the entire army of the Lord to shame, David stepped forth with the question, "Is there not a cause?" David then said to the Philistine, *"I come to thee in the name of the Lord of host, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou has defied...for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands"* (I Sam. 17:29,45,47). That is what the righteous did in days gone by, and it is no different today! We must not give up the cause nor the fight. There still is a cause worth standing up for and a battle that needs to be fought.

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**"Lessons From The
Time Of The Judges"**

EAST CORINTH CHURCH OF CHRIST

FOUNDATIONS THAT ARE BEING DESTROYED TODAY

Virgil L. Hale

It is a well known fact that no building can possibly be stronger than the foundation upon which it rests. I have seen literally months or even years spent in preparing the foundation for some of the skyscrapers that have been built in the last several years. In areas of the world where it is feared that earthquakes are imminent, great care is taken in the construction of buildings – especially in preparing the foundation. If the foundation is weak, rest assured the building cannot stand.

Not only is this true in the material, physical world, it is also true in the spiritual. Our Lord said, *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it”* (Matt. 7:24-27).

In this text, our Lord plainly shows the difference in being wise and being foolish. Please observe that both men

heard the same teaching – *“these sayings of mine.”* Both had the same opportunity to obey the sayings of the Lord. One obeyed – the other did not. One was called *“wise”* by the Lord and the other was called *“foolish.”* One was said to build on *“a rock”* – a solid foundation, whereas the other built on *“the sand”* – a weak, shifting, unstable foundation. Observe also, that both buildings were tested from every direction. The roof was tested by the rain; the walls by the wind; and the foundation by the floods. The one built on the rock stood firm – the one built on the sand fell, *“and great was the fall of it.”* Rest assured – the roof and walls cannot stand if the foundation gives way. Again I emphasize – no building can be stronger than the foundation upon which it rests.

Little children sing *“The Wise Man Song”* and make all of the motions that go along with it. Hopefully, they are learning a great principle that will remain with them throughout life. However, far too many adults have never learned (or if they knew it have forgotten) the importance of having a *“thus saith the Lord”* for what we do in religion (cf. Col. 3:17).

We hear such statements as: *“Don’t rock the boat,”* *“Go along to get along,”* or *“We need to re-examine our stand.”*

This latter statement reminds me of Balaam, about whom we read in the book of Numbers. When he was asked to go and curse the people of God, God plainly said to him, *"Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed"* (Num. 22:12). Did Balaam understand the Lord's will regarding this matter? Most assuredly he did. In verse 13 we have this statement from the mouth of Balaam, *"...for the Lord refuseth to give me leave to go with you."* At the first, it seems that Balaam was determined to obey the Lord. In fact, he said, *"If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more"* (v.18). What a great statement! But, did he stick to it? Not at all. Listen to the statement that he made in verse 19: *"Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the Lord will say unto me more."* Balaam had a problem that plagues many people today. He knew what God said, but he was not willing to accept that as final authority. He wanted God to say something else — something that was more to his liking.

In the book of Jude and in verse 11, we are told: *"Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."* Why the warning about these three men? Let us look at the sin of each one, and see that people today are prone to follow the same pattern.

Cain's sin was that of **substitution**. He was not content to offer the sacrifice God had prescribed, but instead, offered

one of his own choosing. Substituting for God's commands is a common practice today.

Balaam's sin was the sin of **compromise**. Rather than standing firm on what he knew God wanted him to do, he decided to compromise in order to obtain the reward offered. Do we not find the sin of compromise in and out of the Lord's church today?

But what about Core (Korah)? His sin was that of **rebellion**. He and those who were in agreement with him rebelled against God's appointed leaders, Moses and Aaron. As a result of this rebellion, the ground opened up and swallowed all of these rebels. Some of our own brethren are teaching that elders are no longer needed, or if they are to be in the church, at all, they have absolutely no authority whatsoever. If this is not rebellion against God's appointed leaders, what is it? Let us be sure that we are never found guilty of the sins of **substitution, compromise, or rebellion**.

Balaam had a problem that plagues many people today. He knew what God said, but he was not willing to accept it as final authority.

The Lord's church has a solid foundation, because it is built upon Christ himself. Jesus made this clear in Matthew 16:18, and Paul emphasized the same fact in I Corinthians 3:11. Jesus is also said to be *"the chief corner stone"* in Ephesians 2:20. When we build on

Christ, we are building on the firm foundation. However, when we deviate from God's word, we are building on the sand, and our building will not stand the test of time and eternity. John wrote, *"Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son"* (II John 9). Yet, in view of plain passages such as these, men are still not content to build on the solid foundation of eternal truth. Let us look at some of the foundations that are under attack today.

Some are contending that men can be saved by "faith only" or by "grace only." These false doctrines have been espoused for years in the denominational world, but some of our own brethren are teaching the same. In this way, they are seeking to destroy the sure foundation – God's own plan for redeeming man. Those of us who hold fast to the truth regarding these matters are often referred to as "legalists."

When it comes to the subject of baptism, some are saying that a person does not have to understand that baptism is for the remission of sins in order for his baptism to be valid. Just so long as he is baptized for "a scriptural reason" or "to obey the Lord," this is sufficient, they say. I know of religious groups who say that baptism is not essential to salvation, and yet they say that one is obeying a command of the Lord in being baptized. Does this make their baptism scriptural baptism? Is it valid?

Another foundation under

attack is the worship of the church. God (who is the object of our worship) has told us how he desires to be worshipped. Some, in the church, are contending that we need to "re-examine" our stand so far as worship is concerned, and take another look at instrumental music in worship. In fact, they are saying that it is just a matter of opinion anyway. God's word is no longer appealed to as the standard of authority.

No nation or community can be stronger than the homes that compose it. In fact, the church will never be stronger than the homes from which her members come.

Still others are contending that the Lord never intended to establish a church (as we know it) and, according to them, the word "church" should not even be in the Bible. They say the Lord never intended for there to be congregations, worship services, elders, preachers, etc. How sad that men, who claim to be Christians, are trying to destroy something that meant so much to our Lord that he purchased it with his own blood (Acts 20:28); that he gave himself for it (Eph. 5:25). This kind of teaching suits a lot of people, because if they accept such, they do not have to attend worship services, and they do not have to give on the first day of the week as they have been prospered. Therefore, they can use their time and their money for their own selfish desires.

Not only is the church itself under attack, but the second most important institution in this world is under attack, and has been for several years. **I speak now of the home, the oldest God-ordained institution known to man.** The home is the very foundation of our society. “As the home goes, so goes the nation.” No nation or community can be stronger than the homes that compose it. In fact, the church will never be stronger than the homes from which her members come.

There was a time in which young people married with the intention of living together for life. Such is no loner the case. Sad but true, there are cities, here in America, where divorces exceed the number of marriage license issued each year. Divorce no longer has the stigma it once did. Some Brethren are contending that couples can divorce for

reasons other than fornication (Matt. 19:9), remarry and still be pleasing to God. Rest assured – when you teach what people are wanting to hear, you will have a audience. Souls are going to be lost in eternity because they have espoused such teaching – but what about the ones who are doing the teaching? Will they be found any less guilty? Absolutely not! They are responsible for misleading people with their false doctrines, and they will have to pay the price in eternity.

In conclusion, let me say this. God and his foundation will stand. Man cannot destroy truth, but he can be responsible for causing many to turn from truth to “fables.” Eternity awaits!!!

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(SOLUTION, Continued from back page)

has been challenged by those within the body of Christ as today? How many congregations of God’s people have been led into digression simply because her leaders did not respect what God said on certain matters? The so-called “New Hermeneutics” which calls for a new approach to interpreting the Bible, saying the old and tested methods are out of date, is nothing more than a device of Satan which he is using to create disrespect for what God has said.

The rejection of God’s word has always brought destruction. “But there

were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction” (II Peter 2:1). Thus, the only way to rightfully rebuild and restore the foundations of the church which have been broken down is for men to get back to God’s holy and divine word. In Matthew 7:24-27 our Lord spoke of building on the right foundation; but notice what he said, “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and DOETH THEM, I will liken him unto a wise man....”

Doing what the Lord has said is the answer.

The Bible, God's word, is right and it tells me WHAT IS RIGHT. As human beings, we need to realize that we can and might be mistaken. We can be wrong and we need something that will tell us what is right. *"There is a way which SEEMETH right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"* (Prov. 14:12). God's word will tell me what is right. If the church for which our Lord died is to be the kind of church God wants it to be, it will be governed by a *"thus saith the Lord."*

It is always right to say what the Bible says. Take a look at Luke 10:25-28. Here Jesus is asked a question *"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"* Did Jesus respond with "well, in my opinion" ...this or that? No! He responded by asking *"what is written in the law?"* In other words, what does the word of God say? Oh, how many broken foundations, how many problems, or how many questions could be solved if people only had the answer and/or attitude Jesus had – what does God's word say? Jesus would say it is right to say what the Bible has to say. If questions arise today, wouldn't it be right to say what the Bible has to say?

God's word is the truth – the truth on ANY subject. Jesus said *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth"* (John 17:17). Therefore, truth is what God says on any subject, whether it be instrumental music in worship, the organization of the church, or any other topic. For example, does not God's word teach the same thing today about the use of instrumental music in worship as it did 20, 30, or 50 years ago? Some

evidently think not. Why is it that some brethren will go along with almost anything and everything today, thus destroying the true worship of the church? Is it not because they have lost respect for the Word of God?

If we are going to find the proper solution to the destroyed and broken foundations of our day, we must have the same love and attitude toward the Word of God which the Psalmist had when he said: *"I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me."* *"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day"* (Psalm 119:30, 97). Dear people, we must realize the VALUE of truth, the Word of God. *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32). *"Buy the truth, and sell it not..."* (Prov. 23:23). Doesn't the truth, God's word, tell us what to do with those who *"cause division and offences contrary to the doctrine"* (Rom. 16:17)? Doesn't God's word have something to say about division in the church (Read I Cor. 1:10-13)?

God has told us how to worship and when to worship. Yet, man has greatly corrupted true worship, even in the Lord's church. We see new innovations constantly, most of which come from those in the denominational world. Why is all this happening? Simply because many, including many preachers and elders, have lost respect for the Word of God. Back in the days of the prophet Isaiah, God's word was totally disregarded. God's people flagrantly violated his law and he declared Jerusalem ruin and Judah as fallen – they had no real concern for truth (Isa. 3:8-9). *"...For truth is fallen in the street...yea, truth faileth...and the Lord saw it, and it*

displeased him that there was no judgment" (Isa. 59:14-15).

The church is the pillar and ground of the truth (I Tim. 3:15). The church is to hold forth the word of life (Phil. 2:16). Dear people, the church ceases to be faithful when she ceases to uphold and give her support to the pure Word of God. When the church ceases to give heed to the Word of God and when she ceases to teach it **AS IT IS WRITTEN**, trouble is at hand. Listen to the words of Jeremiah: *"This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the Lord their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth"* (Jer. 7:28). Again, *"and they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth: for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord"* (Jer. 9:3). Although these words were uttered several hundred years ago, surely they must apply today. When we as God's people lose respect for what God has said, we are no different from those of Jeremiah's day... punishment awaits!

If we today are going to restore genuine New Testament Christianity, it's going to have to start with genuine reverence and respect for the Bible. In Nehemiah 8:5 when Ezra opened the book before the people they stood up, which shows the respect they had for God's word. The Bible should be treated as the Word of God and not as the words of men. We should have the same attitude as Samuel when he said: *"Speak Lord; for thy servant heareth"* (I Sam. 3:10).

The Bible is not designed to be a filing cabinet for marriage license,

Grandma's baby picture or a lock from the baby's hair, but the Bible is given to be our **TEACHER**; and when men and women across this land get back to the Bible, reading it, studying it, and **DOING WHAT IT SAYS**, then, and only then, will we be able to find the real solution to the deteriorating foundations of Christianity. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (II Tim. 2:15). *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is"* (Eph. 5:17). *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous"* (I John 5:3). These verses tell us we can know the truth, understand the truth and obey the truth. So what brethren (including preachers and elders) need to do is throw away those "how to" books written by denominational writers, many of whom are about as far from the truth as one can be, and pick up the Bible and begin **PRACTICING WHAT GOD SAYS**. And brethren, when this is done we will be on the right track.

Yes, the Bible is the most marvelous book of all ages. Let us study it, believe it, and obey it! *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"* (Matt. 24:35). *"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day"* (John 12:48).

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THE SOLUTION GIVEN BY GOD

Edward White

We are living in times when people have less and less respect for the Bible, the Word of God. As a result, foundations are being destroyed...the foundation of the home, the church, and society in general. All types of solutions are being presented from various sources. How do we re-establish the kind of homes and family relationships that America was built upon? How do we change and turn our modern day society around and re-establish the kind of morals which once existed in this country? How do we stem the tide of liberalism, modernism, along with many other devices which have made havoc of the Lord's church? What's the answer? To whom can we turn for answers? What's the solution? For certain, the solution is not in the wisdom of men. God, and only God, has the solution, and God has given us the solution through his written revelation to man. Regardless of what some say, the Bible is just as relevant today as it was in the first century.

Foundations have been and are being destroyed because man in general has rejected the Biblical principle of authority. Has there ever been a time when the Biblical principle of authority

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EAST CORINTH CHURCH OF CHRIST

Seek The Old Paths is a publication of the East Corinth church of Christ and is under the oversight of its elders. Its primary purpose and goal in publication can be found in Jude 3; II Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:13; 2:1; II Peter 1:12. Manuscripts are welcome.

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