

Introduction

As our pastors and Leadership Team have prayed and sought the Lord about where we will be going with our messages for the coming year, we believe that we are to follow up our study of Luke with the sequel, which is the book of Acts. At the same time, we sensed a need to pause for just a little while and cover some other essential doctrines. Two or three of these messages will eventually be taught as part of our new member's class. The Essentials Series will cover the following messages.

1. Essential Doctrines of the Christian Faith (BM)
2. Essentials for Christian Maturity (DH)
3. Essentials for Christian Growth (BM)
4. Essentials for Christian Service (DH)
5. Essentials for Relationships – Part 1, Offenses (BM)
6. Essentials for Relationships – Part 2, Forgiveness (DH)
7. Essentials for Relationships – Part 3, Communication (BM)
8. Essentials for Relationships – Part 4, Order (DH)
9. Essentials for Relationships – Part 5, Commitment (DH)

Many years ago I was introduced to the Navigators. It was a ministry founded by Dawson Trotman, and it has significantly impacted and contributed to my life and ministry. One of the tools that the Navigators became known for was the Wheel. The Navigator's Wheel has a hub and four spokes. The wheel represents our Christian life. In the hub of the wheel is our relationship with Christ. Our relationship with God is central to everything we do. In this series on the Essentials we will be looking at ways that we can grow and mature in our relationship with Christ.



The vertical spokes are the primary ways that we relate to God. The top spoke is prayer. Prayer is essential to our Christian faith. Prayer is our communication with God, and if we have no communication with someone, we have no relationship. So, prayer is essential to an abiding relationship with Christ. The lower spoke is the Word of God. The Word is one of the primary ways that the Father speaks to us. He speaks to us in many ways, but the Bible is our final authority on all matters of doctrine and practice.

The horizontal spokes represent our relationships with others. A large part of the messages in this series pertain to our relationships with one another.

The rim of the wheel says, “the obedient Christian in action.” Our Christian faith is something that is to be lived out. Our Christian faith demands action. Jesus said that He did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. All of us are called to serve. We are not called to just show up to church, listen to a message, and go back home. We are all called to actively serve and minister. There will be two messages that relate to serving and finding our place of ministry.

In this first message, we are looking at Essential Doctrines. Some people call these the non-negotiables. Even though Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13 that we all see dimly, there are a few very important doctrines that we see clearly enough that we take a firm stand on them. As I was researching what others consider Essential Doctrines, I found one pastor that did a thirty-three week

series on Essential Doctrines. Today, we are just going to give an overview and will cover two essential doctrines, the foundation of Christ, and the foundation of God's word.

1. The Foundation of Christ

In 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, Paul tells them that he laid a foundation and another is building on it. The other person he is referring to is Apollos. He had said that he planted and Apollos watered. People in the church were taking sides and some identified with Apollos and some with Paul. He tells them that they are just servants to whom God gave an opportunity. It was God who was causing the growth. Next, Paul tells them that he laid a foundation, and another is building on that foundation. He cautions us to build carefully on the foundation. What is the foundation? Paul tells us, "for no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **The foundation of the church is Jesus Christ.** I cannot think of a single doctrine that is more essential than the foundation of Christ.

(1 Cor 3:10-11) "According to the grace of God which was given to me, 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. {11} For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

In Matthew 16, Jesus asked His disciples, "who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They answered that some say He was John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others said He was Jeremiah or one of the prophets.

(Matt 16:13-14) "Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" {14} And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

Then, Jesus gets more personal. He asks them who they think He is. Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus responds back to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church..."

(Matt 16:15-18) "He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" {16} Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." {17} And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. {18} I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

I had a next door neighbor in Orlando, Florida who was a pastor of a church. The foundation of their church was prophecy and they emphasized prophecy. They used this verse in Matthew 16 to say that the church would be built on revelation. They missed the point. The church would be built on Christ. God the Father revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Prophecy and revelation are not the foundation of the church. Christ is the foundation of the church and it is being built on the revelation of who Christ is. I believe in prophecy. I earnestly desire the greater gifts, and prophecy is one of those greater gifts. We welcome prophecy, but prophecy is not the foundation of the church. Christ is the foundation of the church.

The Catholic church uses this passage to say that the foundation was Peter, the first pope. The current Catholic Pope, Francis, is their 266th pope. They say the Catholic church is the final authority on all matters of doctrine and practice. They have missed it. Christ is the foundation of the church.

Isaiah prophesied about this rock and foundation. The Lord God said, "behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed." **Jesus is the costly cornerstone.** We must believe in Christ, the Corner stone.

(Isa 28:16) "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed."

Peter also quotes Isaiah and expounds on the application of the verse: we must believe and accept this rock.

(1 Pet 2:6-8) "For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." {7} This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone," {8} and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed."

Therefore, this rock that Jesus refers to is not revelation as my neighbor thought. And, this rock is not Peter, as the Catholic church believes. This rock or foundation is Jesus Christ. The revelation that Peter had was that Jesus was the Messiah or Christ. This is exactly what Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians 3, that the only foundation is Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the foundation of our individual lives and He is the foundation of the church, the assembly of the individual believers. When the foundation of our faith is in Christ, we can stand up in all the storms. Jesus said that there is a foundation that He has laid that all the forces in hell cannot come against. It is a solid foundation. It is a sure foundation. It is a tried stone, a precious cornerstone.

Some of the forces that try to come against this foundation come in the way of false religions and cults. The early church in the New Testament had a problem with people attacking the identity of Christ. In Paul's letter to the Colossians, he warns them against being taken captive or deceived about Christ. He makes it very clear that Jesus is God. He says, "for in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority."

(Col 2:8-10) "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. {9} For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, {10} and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;"

Christ is not just a prophet as the Moslems say. He is God. He is not just a good man who came 2,000 years ago. Jesus is God in the flesh, Immanuel. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be born, and that “His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Jesus is the eternal Father, even though He was given to us as a Son. **The deity of Christ is a foundational teaching. It is an essential doctrine of the Christian faith.**

(Isaiah 9:6) “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

Some of the cults agree that Jesus is the Son of God, but do not accept that He and the Father are one. In this prophecy, Isaiah calls Jesus, “Eternal Father.” He and the Father were one. As we looked at what Paul said in Colossians, “the fullness of deity dwelt in Him in bodily form.” Jesus was fully God who had come in the flesh. The Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses do not accept that Jesus is God, and that is why they are considered cults.

In John 14, Jesus tells His disciples that since they know Him, they know the Father. He said if you have seen Me, you have seen the Father. He said the He is in the Father, and the Father is in Him.

(John 14:7-10a) “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.” {8} Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." {9} Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? {10} "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me...”

In John 10, Jesus said that He and the Father were one. The Jews picked up stones to stone Him. He asked them for what good works were they stoning Him. They answered that it was not for His good works, but it was because He said that He was God. **Jesus was very clear that He and the Father were one.**

(John 10:30-33) “I and the Father are one.” {31} The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. {32} Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" {33} The Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.”

In John 1, John the Baptist tells us that Jesus existed before him, even though in the natural, John was born six months earlier. Jesus existed in the very beginning. He is the Eternal Father.

(John 1:30) “This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.’”

When we started our church a few years ago, a very nice couple began coming to our services. We had a potluck supper after every service, and at one of the luncheons I sat next to them. As we dialogued, I discerned that they were involved in a cult called "The Way." The Way does not accept the deity of Christ or the deity of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are very clear about who Jesus Christ is. He and the Father are One. This question that Jesus asks is very important to our salvation. Their winds of doctrine have tried to weaken the very foundation of our faith.

John began his gospel account by stating that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

(John 1:1-3) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was in the beginning with God. {3} All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

In Paul’s defense of who Christ is, he wrote, for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him.” Paul mentions a number of other attributes of Christ in Colossians 1 that also speak of His deity.

(Col 1:16) “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”

In both of these accounts, John and Paul are writing about creation. We find in Genesis 1 that “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Well, who created it? Did God create it or did Jesus create everything, as John and Paul both write? The answer is that God did create everything that was created, and Christ created everything that was created. Jesus is God, and so both are true. The trinity is made up of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three are God. In this passage in Genesis, the word for God is Elohim, which is the plural of El, which means God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were all involved in creation. As we read verse two, we find that “the Spirit of God is moving over the surface of the waters.” All three were actively involved.

(Gen 1:1-2) “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. {2} The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

A few weeks ago while we were looking at how God observes our giving, we looked at the account of Ananias and Sapphira. Ananias lied about the amount of money that they received from the sale of their land. They kept back some of it for themselves, but said they gave the whole amount. Peter, under the leading of the Holy Spirit, asked why he had lied to the Holy Spirit. Then, in the next verse, he says, “you have not lied to men, but to God.” When you lie to the Holy Spirit, you lie to God, because they are one and the same.

(Acts 5:1-4) “But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, {2} and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. {3} But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to *lie to the Holy Spirit* and to keep back some of the price of the land? {4} "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? *You have not lied to men but to God.*”

I have given you some examples of what some false religions and cults say about Jesus. Notice what John says in 1 John 2:22. He says the liar is the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ. This is the

antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. One of the ways that John gives us to discern the true from the false is what they say about Jesus.

(1 John 2:22) “Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.”

Later on in 1 John 4, he tells us to test the spirits to see whether they are from God. **We are not to believe every Spirit; we must test them.** What is the test? **The test is what they say about Jesus.** If they confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is true.

(1 John 4:1-3) “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. {2} By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; {3} and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.”

2. The Foundation of God’s Word

The second essential that I want us to look at this morning is the foundation of God’s Word. In Matthew 7, we have the very familiar story of the wise man who built his house on the rock and the foolish man that built his house upon the sand. When the rains came down and the floods came, the house on the sand fell flat, but the house built on the solid foundation of the rock stood firm.

What was that solid foundation. Jesus said that His words are the solid rock that we must hear and act upon. The foolish did not listen to God’s words and act upon them. **We must build our lives on the Word of God. We must build our church on the Word of God.** The foundation of God’s word is an essential doctrine.

(Matt 7:24-27) “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. {25} And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. {26} Everyone 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. {27} The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

Last year Donald and I had to confront a couple of families that were coming to our church. They wanted to join, but they disagreed about the Vineyard doctrinal statement. In the introductory paragraph, it says, “The Bible is our final authority in matters of faith and practice.” Then, it gives all of the various doctrinal statements. The 8th Doctrinal Statement is “The Sufficiency of Scripture.” It reads “We believe that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Holy Scripture so that the Bible is without error in the original manuscripts. We receive the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments as our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.” These two families said that we are in error by saying that God’s word is the final authority in matters of faith and practice. They said that Yahweh is the final authority. We must obey the voice of Yahweh and not the Scriptures. If Yahweh tells you to do something, you must obey Yahweh. There are numerous problems with that theology. First and foremost, it contradicts what God says about the Scriptures. Let’s take a look at what the Scriptures say.

We say earlier that Jesus was in the beginning and that everything that was created came into being through Him. In that same passage we find that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jesus is the Word. The word of God is eternal. It was in the beginning. These two families did not accept that the Word was God.

(John 1:1-3) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. {2} He was in the beginning with God. {3} All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

Even though the Word of God was in the beginning, it had not been revealed to us. Peter wrote that “no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” God revealed His Word to us through men, who were moved and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

(2 Peter 1:20-21) “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, {21} for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

In 2 Timothy Paul writes that “**all Scripture is inspired by God...**” The Greek word for inspired is theopneustos. Theo is the Greek word for God and pneo means to blow. Pneuma is the word for Spirit or breath. Theopneustos means God-breathed or inspired. Men were moved by the Holy Spirit and wrote the Scriptures.

(2 Tim 3:16-17) “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; {17} so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

Paul goes on to say that “**all Scripture is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.**” We base our teaching or doctrine on the Scriptures. It is profitable for teaching. We base all reproof on the Scriptures. How do we know when we have gone astray? We know by looking at the Word of God. We use it for reproof. Scripture is profitable for correction. The Scriptures help us find our way back God and His ways; they correct our attitudes and behavior. The Scriptures are to be used for all training in righteousness so that we are adequate and equipped for every good work. That is why we say that the Scriptures are our final authority for all matters of doctrine and practice. This is an essential doctrine in the church.

The two families that we met with would not accept this essential doctrine. If they had been open to changing their position, they could have stayed. However, they said that Yahweh had sent them to us to bring correction to our theology. They were going to teach their false doctrine to as many people as possible in our congregation, which we could not allow. Therefore, they are no longer with us. We are charged by God to watch out for the flock and to protect the flock from wolves and false teachers. In essential doctrines, we take a much firmer stand than on the non-essentials.

In Psalm 119, which is about the Word of God, a question is asked about how young men can keep their way pure. He says, “by keeping it according to Your word....Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.” Not only does the Word of God teach us, reprove us, correct us, and train us, it protects us. It keeps us from sinning. When we keep our ways according to God’s

Word, we keep away from sin. Therefore, the Psalmist says that he has done several things. First, he has sought after God with all his heart. One of the ways that we seek after God is spending time in His word. How is your pursuit of God going? Are you spending time in God's Word?

(Ps 119:9-11) "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.
 {10} With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments.
 {11} Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You."

The Psalmist also said that he treasured God's word in his heart. **We treasure the Word in our heart by memorizing and meditating on Scripture.** How is your Scripture memory going? How is your Scripture meditation going? Do you have a time set aside to meditate on God's word? Let me encourage you to accept the Scriptures for what they really are, God's word to us. We need to treasure His words in our hearts.

On the left hand side of the PowerPoint slides, we have put down the Navigator's wheel. The Navigators was founded by Dawson Trotman. His ministry originally started out for sailors. The ministry spread beyond the Navy and eventually it began helping high school and college students with their walk. That is where I first came into contact with the Navigators. There was a young man at TCU who was in the Navigators. I really respected him, and his walk with the Lord. He was using the Topical Memory System by the Navigators, which is a Scripture memory system. Eventually, I bought the Topical Memory System kit and memorized all the verses in it. Then, I bought additional kits of verses, and memorize those. I memorized hundreds of verses and passages. Memorizing and meditating on the Scriptures has radically changed my life. I am extremely grateful for the ministry of the Navigators and the impact that they have had on my life. I encourage you to begin memorizing Scriptures on a regular basis.

In our Saturday morning Men's Bible study, we are studying the book of 1 Thessalonians. One of my favorite verses in that book is in chapter two. Paul wrote, "For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe." The Scriptures are not just words of men. **The Scriptures are the word of God, and it performs its work in our lives.** At our church, we accept the Scriptures for what it really is, the Word of God. It is an essential doctrine.

(1 Thess 2:13) "For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe."

The Word of God performs its work in us because it is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. It is piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. When we meditate on His word, it becomes active in our lives. It helps us separate our thoughts from God's thoughts. It helps us discern God's will from our own will. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

(Heb 4:12) "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

A few weeks ago, I was pondering our involvement with the Vineyard Men's Conference. It seemed that it was not being treated like the priority that it should be. I have a heart and passion for men's ministry. I want to see men become the spiritual leaders in their homes. I want to see men on fire for the Lord. So, the Men's Conference is dear to my heart. But, I was frustrated by the lack of communication and planning. I spoke with Karen, Donald, and Greg about it. The Holy Spirit kept bringing a verse to me. It is in Proverbs 18. It says, "he who separates himself seeks his own desire, he quarrels against all sound wisdom." I felt that we were not to separate and seek our own desire. We were to work together if possible. There is a balance.

(Pro 18:1) "He who separates himself seeks his own desire, he quarrels against all sound wisdom."

Amos 3:3 tells us, "can two walk together, except they be agreed?" For people to come to agreement, they must communicate and iron things out. Good communication is essential for people to walk together and work together. Unless the Men's Conference leaders could communicate and properly organize and administrate the conference, we could not be a part of it. Fortunately, we have improved our communication and we are not separating ourselves. God's word is living and active in our hearts, and speaks to us. I am very grateful for how the Holy Spirit uses the Word to speak to us about all the areas of our lives.

(Amos 3:3 KJV) "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

Conclusion (Have worship team come forward)

This morning we have looked at two essential doctrines of our faith. We just looked at the second foundation, which is the word of God. We must build our lives on the Word of God. We must teach and live by the principles in the Word.

The first essential doctrine that we looked at is the foundation of our Christian faith, which is Jesus Christ. He is the cornerstone. As we come to a close this morning, let's take one final look at the foundation of Christ, the cornerstone. In 1 Peter 2, Peter quotes Isaiah, saying, "For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed." {7} This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "The stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone," {8} and, "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed."

We see that there are two decisions about this corner stone. Those who receive and accept this stone will not be disappointed. They receive salvation and become living stones.

But, Peter also says that those who reject the stone stumble and are disobedient to the word and are appointed to doom. There is no other way to receive salvation. Luke writes in Acts 4:12 that "there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

(Acts 4:12) "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God. He is the only way to have eternal life.

(John 14:6) "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

This morning, where do you stand with the cornerstone? Have you accepted Jesus as the Cornerstone? If you have never received Christ into your life, and you would like to do that, I want to give you a chance this morning. We are going to sing a closing song this morning. If you would like to receive Christ, come up front while the congregation is singing, and we will pray with you.

If you have any other need this morning that you would like us to pray about, I also invite you to come up during this last worship song. We would welcome the opportunity to see God meet your needs.

Let's stand up and sing.

Introduction**1. The Foundation of Christ**

- The foundation of the church is _____. (1 Cor 3:10-11, Matt 16:13-18)
- Jesus is the costly _____. (Isa 28:16, 1 Pet 2:6-8)
- The _____ of Christ is a foundational teaching. It is an essential _____ of the Christian faith. (Col 2:8-10, Isaiah 9:6, John 1:30, 1:1-3, Col 1:16, Gen 1:1-2, Acts 5:1-4)
- Jesus was very clear that He and the Father were _____. (John 14:7-10, 10:30-33)
- We are not to believe every Spirit; we must _____ them. The _____ is what they say about Jesus. (1 John 2:22, 4:1-3)

2. The Foundation of God's Word (Matt 7:24-27, John 1:1-3, Ps 119:9-11)

- We must build our _____ on the Word of God.
- We must build our _____ on the Word of God.
- All Scripture is _____ God. (2 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Tim 3:16-17)
- All Scripture is _____ for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.
- We treasure the Word in our heart by _____ and _____ on Scripture.
- The Scriptures are the word of God, and it performs its _____ in our lives. (1 Thess 2:13)
- The Word of God performs its work in us because it is _____ and _____. (Heb 4:12, Pro 18:1, Amos 3:3)

Conclusion (1 Peter 2:6-8, Acts 4:12, John 14:6)

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- All Scripture is _____ for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.
- We treasure the Word in our heart by _____ and _____ on Scripture.
- The Scriptures are the word of God, and it performs its _____ in our lives. (1 Thess 2:13)
- The Word of God performs its work in us because it is _____ and _____. (Heb 4:12, Pro 18:1, Amos 3:3)

Conclusion (1 Peter 2:6-8, Acts 4:12, John 14:6)