

A Sure Foundation

The beliefs that we build our lives on

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

Studies show that the majority of Americans believe the events and stories of the Bible to be true, but don't necessarily incorporate that truth into their behavior or decision making. What good are truths that don't affect us? Do we even know what truths we really believe? Are we able to give others an answer for the hope that lies in us? Can they see the hope? Is your solid footing borrowed from the Christians around you, or is it your own life encompassing faith? What do you believe? What are you building on?

Think of the deluge of questions that have flooded our culture recently. Was Jesus married to Mary Magdalene? Did He father a child? Were His bones discovered in His family's tomb? Or, perhaps the questions come from within. How could God let my marriage fail? Why does He allow such suffering? Is your foundation strong enough to not only hold your faith fast, but also to help others know the truth? Do you have an answer for what you believe? Do you know when it is a dispute worth entering? Is there enough that you know with total assurance to carry you through the things that you don't yet understand? Is your foundation strong enough to make you comfortable with growth inducing doubt?

List the things that you consider to be the essential beliefs of your faith: _____

This year long study is intended to help both the new Christian build a solid foundation for their new faith, as well as deepen, strengthen and challenge the mature Christian. Sometimes we grow complacent over time and need refreshed with a new look at age old truths, and new ways to incorporate them into our lives. Each month there will be a general topic, memory verse and puzzle page. Each week there will be worksheets over a more specific aspect of the topic as well as weekly readings that will take us through the entire New Testament, plus a little of the Old.

INTRODUCTION

READ:

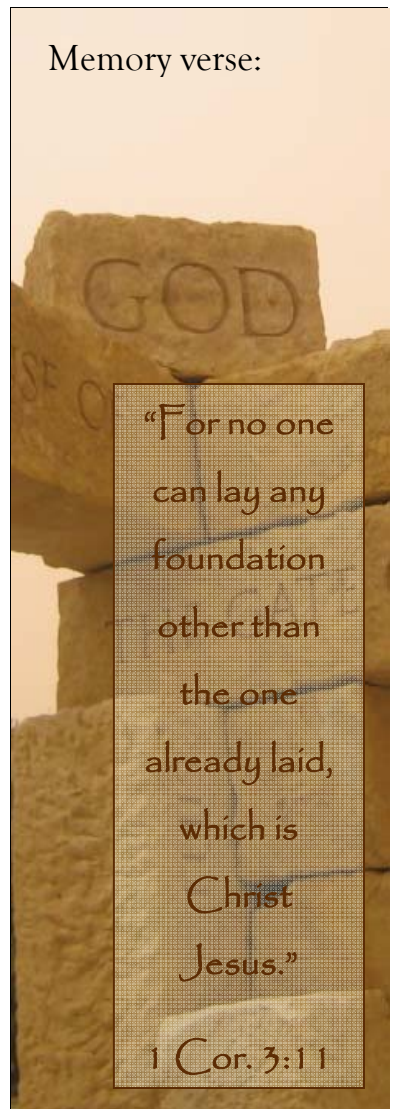
1 Corinthians

3:1-17

Memory verse:

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Christ Jesus."

1 Cor. 3:11



A SURE FOUNDATION

The purpose of this class is twofold. I hope we can strengthen our own faith by examining, questioning, and knowing what we believe, choosing the right materials to build our faith. I also hope that we will be better prepared to demonstrate to others what a holy dwelling place looks like, and where it comes from!

The foundation is the most load bearing part of any structure. Usually, the bulk of the foundation lies unseen and is only evident by the integrity of the structure itself. Perhaps that's why the ceremonial cornerstone came to be. It's a public proclamation of the date and purpose on which a building was founded. This week try to notice the cornerstones on many of our public buildings. Many contain a time capsule to preserve a knowledge of the people who built the structure. What does God have to say in **Job 38:3-7** about the foundation and cornerstone that He laid? _____

In my Webster's dictionary, there are two meanings for the word cornerstone. One is: the stone laid at the corner of the wall during a formal ceremony. The second is: the most basic element.

What does **Psalms 118:22** say about the cornerstone? _____

This verse was faithfully recited during the Jewish Passover, but the builders (religious leaders) failed to actually include the cornerstone when it came down to it. What does Jesus say in **Luke 20:17** about the person who falls on that stone? _____

What was God's intention for that cornerstone in **Isaiah 28:16**? _____

How did Peter build on these ideas in **1 Peter 2:1-10**? _____

What does **Acts 4:11-12** say will happen if we build on that stone? _____

How is Jesus our cornerstone in both regards of its meaning? _____

Our memory verse for this week is also the overriding theme for the entire year. In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul is addressing a problem with the Corinthian believers that we can easily fall into ourselves. He wants to address them as the spiritual people that they should be, but he can't because they haven't built on the foundation that they were given.

In 1 Cor. 3:11, what is the foundation that has already been laid? _____

Why does it matter what we build on that foundation? (1 Cor. 3:12-17) _____

It is important that we build with the same material as the foundation itself so that it can withstand the test by fire. What are some of the immature and inferior ways that the Corinthians had built on their foundation in Christ? (3:1-10) _____

What are some ways that we might be tempted to use inferior building materials today? _____