

A Solid Foundation II Timothy 2:1-2; 19-26

Scripture Reference: *Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His will? [Hebrews 2:1-4].*

Note: One reason the writer of Hebrews emphasizes the superiority of God's Son and His revelation is to stress that those who have experienced salvation in Him must not be careless about the commitment to Jesus Christ that it requires. The Word for "slip" (**GK. par-ra-reo**) has nautical overtones, as when a ship drifts past the harbor to shipwreck. Therefore, we must pay close attention to God's revelation to us in Christ

(1) Neglect or apathy can be fatal. Believers who because of negligence, allow their relationship to Christ to slip, are in great danger of being swept along downstream past a fixed landing and its place of security.

(2) Like the recipients of this letter, all believers must heed this warning regarding negligence or carelessness about our salvation and life in Christ lest we slowly slip from the Lord Jesus Christ.

A "Sure Foundation" (Christ)

[Isaiah 28:16]: *Therefore, thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believes shall not make haste. [Romans 9:33; I Peter 2:4-6].*

Note: The Stone is the Lord Himself; faith in Him alone provided hope for salvation. The **N.T.** declares that the ultimate fulfillment of this verse is found in Christ. On Christ as the foundation, God is building a new people, whose commitment must be to righteousness and justice.

[I Peter 2:4-6]: *To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye, also, as lively stones are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Where also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay a stone in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believes on Him shall not be confounded.*

A "Sure Foundation"-(Apostles/Prophets)

[Ephesians 2:19-22]: read in class

Note: The Church can only be the church if it's founded on the Christ-inspired infallible revelation to the first apostles. **(1)** The NT apostles were the original messengers, witnesses and authorized representatives the crucified and risen Lord, they were the foundation stones of the church, and their message is preserved in the writings of the NT as the original, foundational testimony to the gospel of Christ, and is valid for all times.

(2) All believers and churches are dependent on the words, message and faith of the first apostles as recorded in Acts and in their inspired **NT** writings. Later generations of the church have the task of obeying the **NT** revelation and of bearing witness to its truth. The gospel given to the **NT** apostles through the Holy Spirit is the enduring source of life, truth and direction for the church.

(3) All believers and churches are true believers and true churches as long as they do the following: **(a)** They must agree with and sincerely strive to follow the **NT** teaching and revelation concerning Christ and the gospel (**Acts 2:42**). To reject the **NT** teachings of the apostles is to reject Christ Himself. **(b)** They must continue the apostolic mission by communicating continually the apostolic message to the world and the church through faithful proclamation and teaching in the power of the Spirit. **(c)** They must not only believe the apostolic message but also defend and guard it against distortion or alteration, the apostles' original revelation as found in the **NT** can never be replaced or nullified by later revelation, testimony or prophecy.

(Q): [Psalm 11:3]: *If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?*

(Discussion): This Psalm rebukes those who counsel flight or compromise when Biblical principles are at stake (**vs.1-3**). Faithful believers will take refuge in the Lord (**vs.1**) and remain committed to righteousness even if the moral and spiritual "foundations [are] destroyed" in both society and the church (**vs.3**); the result will be that the Lord's "countenance doth behold the upright" (**vs.7**).

Final Thought: *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*