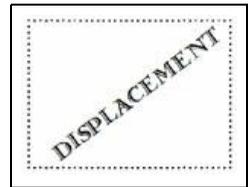
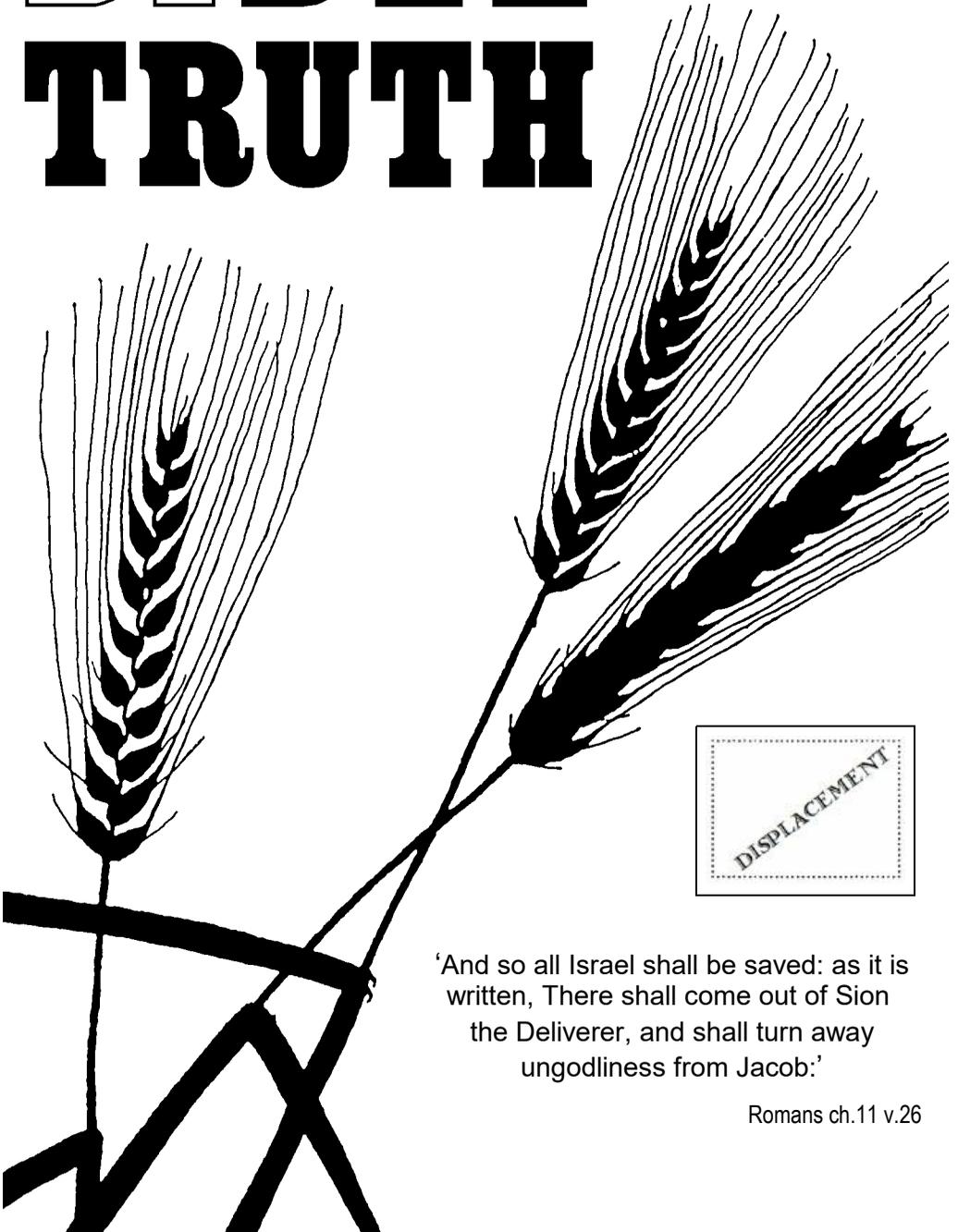


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'And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:'

Romans ch.11 v.26

NO OTHER FOUNDATION

by Delbert Clayton

(from The Pathfinder July 2012)

'For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.'

1 Corinthians ch.3 v.11

Every successful architect knows the importance of the integrity of the foundation upon which the building he designs is to rest. Whether it be a small building of humble design and purpose, or a magnificent skyscraper, he knows that if the foundation is not sound and of sufficient strength to support the structure, the finished building will never successfully serve the purpose for which it was intended. Before construction can begin, he must carefully evaluate the geological structure of the ground upon which it is to stand in order to determine the type of foundation and the depth to which it must be set, so that it will satisfactorily support the building itself. As construction begins, the first step is to lay the foundation, and the wise builder will do this with great care. Once the structure is completed, the foundation is hidden from view, and very few people ever give it a thought. Yet some of us have had the misfortune of a shifting foundation under our houses, and we realise the consequences of not laying a firm foundation before the rest of the structure goes up. This principle applies just as surely to the spiritual aspect of our being as it does to the material.

Throughout the history of the Christian church, millions of people have accepted the Gospel, yet many of them have failed to fully comprehend the deep spiritual truths of Christ crucified as the foundation for their belief and faith. Consequently, they have vacillated, they have run hot and cold and have been unstable in their spiritual experience. The Apostle Paul encountered this condition in the church at Corinth, and in the letters he wrote them he devoted considerable time in attempting to correct that situation. Turning to his writings, we read,

'And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not

carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase'.

1 Corinthians ch.3 vv 1-7

In these passages Paul explains to the Christians at Corinth that they were, in reality, still carnally minded because they did not comprehend the spiritual truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Because they were new in the faith, they had been taught the 'milk' of the Word. In other words, they were fed as babes, and they were not fed any strong meat, because they were not intellectually, emotionally, or spiritually able to digest the full truth at that stage. As an example of their carnality, he mentioned the strife and divisions among them, and pointed out that some were claiming that they were followers of Paul and others that they were followers of Apollos, when in reality they should have been followers of Jesus Christ. They were failing to see beyond the preacher who came and gave the Word to them, and were not building upon the firm foundation of the One who had come, had died, was resurrected, and had sent Paul, Apollos, and others to them with the wonderful truth. He pointed out to them that he and Apollos were only ministers who had come and revealed the wonderful truth of the gospel of Christ, and beyond that they were nothing. He explained to them that if they were to increase in faith and in their spiritual being, it was only God who gave that increase, and they must place their faith in God through His son, Jesus Christ.

Paul continues by pointing out that he and the other apostles are merely labourers working together in the furtherance of the gospel and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

'Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.'

1 Corinthians ch.3 vv 8-11

Paul is here pointing out that all who were proclaiming the gospel of Christ are in reality just labourers for God, working in the building of His church and His Kingdom. As he pointed out in verse 10, those who had the knowledge of this gospel had received wisdom in spiritual matters, and the Lord had sent them out to build on the foundation of the giver of wisdom, the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He was stressing that no man should be exalted, and only the Lord should receive the glory. As they went forth sharing the wisdom and the knowledge they had received, he pointed out they were laying the foundation and others would come along and build thereon, but they must be very careful as to how they build, because the only foundation which would stand was Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, there are many Christians today who are more the followers of a minister than the followers of Jesus Christ. He has ministered and given them comfort in times of need. He has explained to them the wonderful blessings of the spiritual walk with Christ, and they have responded with an active part in the work of the church. Yet too often, if the minister is transferred, or for some other reason leaves the church, they feel they have been cut adrift. They lose interest, and many of them even drift away and no longer fellowship with their fellow members. They have been relying upon a man who was only a labourer.

They have not been building on the foundation of Jesus Christ, because if they had, they still would have been firm in the faith and would still have remained active and labourers in God's Kingdom, even though the good friend who revealed these wonderful truths to them was no longer there. In stressing the importance of building on the foundation of Jesus Christ, Paul continues,

'Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire'.

1 Corinthians ch.3 vv 12-15

In this verse Paul shows there are many different ways in which a person can build upon this foundation, and he symbolises these different activities as gold, silver, precious stones, etc., but he emphasises that regardless of what type of Christian activity we

might be engaged in, all of our works will be declared and shall be revealed by fire. Fire, as it is used in the Scripture typifies the judgements of God, and it comes from the world 'pur' from which we get our English words, 'pure', 'purify' and 'purification'.

Paul tells us here that the calibre of every man's work will be revealed when God turns the judgement of the pure revelation of the foundation of Jesus Christ upon that work. If a man has been faithful and diligent as he built upon this foundation, this will be revealed and he will be duly rewarded; but if he has been careless, this will also be revealed and he will suffer loss, in that he will not have earned a reward, although, as Paul points out, he will be saved because of his belief and the mercy and the judgement of God, Himself.

Paul then continues.

'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.'

1 Corinthians ch.3 vv 16-17

These two verses could serve as a basis for an entire article, but suffice to say, Paul is emphasising the truth that through Jesus Christ and the belief in Him we are spiritual children of God. The Spirit of God dwells within us, and it is our responsibility to be diligent and faithful in keeping the commandments of God and keeping ourselves undefiled both physically and spiritually, because we are the temple of the Spirit of God.

Unfortunately, man tends to be a very vain creature and Paul now proceeds to point out the pitfalls of becoming conceited in his new-found knowledge and wisdom gained through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

'Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain. Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours;'

1 Corinthians ch.3 vv 18-21

If one is truly building on the foundation of Jesus Christ and is being led by the Spirit of Christ, he will manifest a spirit of humility, and not of conceit and arrogance. Any Christian who has built upon the firm foundation of Jesus Christ and has searched the Word of

God for his revelation in spiritual matters, will have acquired knowledge and wisdom far beyond that of those who have not done so. Yet if he is truly led by the Spirit of Christ, he will recognise that this knowledge and wisdom have come only through the grace of Christ and not through any worldly knowledge which he might have. He has no reason to be egotistical or conceited, but should be humbly thankful to God that he has been so blessed. There is no room for spiritual arrogance among the labourers in God's Kingdom. In this connection Paul had earlier written,

‘For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence’.

1 Corinthians ch.1 vv 26-29

There are many men who are extremely wise in worldly matters and have knowledge far beyond most people in things pertaining to worldly and material things. Often times such men feel that they have the answer to all questions, that they are the captain of their own fate, and consequently they have no time for spiritual matters. Because of this attitude, the Scripture here reveals that these men are not chosen for the world of God. Instead, God chooses men whose minds are open, who are seeking truth, who acknowledge the need of a greater power than their own wisdom to solve the problems of the world and of life. The activities of the worldly wise may or may not be ungodly activities, but because they have closed their minds to the spiritual truths and are not building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, He cannot use them, and their works, when tried by fire, will be revealed as not having been built upon spiritual truth. As Paul said,

‘That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:’

1 Corinthians ch.1 vv 29-30

All of the foregoing is just as applicable in Kingdom affairs as it is in personal affairs. All of us who have been blessed with the knowledge of the gospel of the Kingdom and the identity of the

Anglo-Saxon-Celtic and related peoples as the Israel of God today, have been thrilled by these wonderful truths. We recognise that our nation, along with the other Anglo-Saxon Western Christian nations of the world, constitute the present-day nucleus of the Kingdom of God on earth. We are the people and the nations of the covenant which God made with our forefather, Abraham. Our hearts leap for joy, as we see proof that our God is a covenant-keeping God, that he is a Sovereign God, and that His program of salvation and redemption of all His creation is working out according to His plan and timetable.

In this world of sin and degradation, of darkness and despair, we see a blazing ray of hope and we are thankful, indeed, that we have been so blessed to have received these revelations. Yet one of the most difficult tasks of a Kingdom minister today is to get many of these people to develop the patience to be still and wait upon God. Many newcomers to this wonderful truth are failing to realise that the Kingdom of God must also be built upon the one and only Foundation, which is Jesus Christ, the Coming King of the Kingdom. Some feel that the knowledge of the wonderful truths they have learned gives them a mandate to dash forward and, through their own ingenuity and efforts, to set things right and to establish the Kingdom of God and make ready for the Lord to return. This is not God's way. We cannot do it.

Over and over again the Scriptures tell us that we will never realise the true blessings of the Kingdom until we repent of our evil ways, until we seek the will of God in our national affairs, and then wait upon Him to intervene and overthrow our enemies and establish righteousness in His Kingdom. We cannot, by our own actions, rout out the enemy and establish righteousness. Jesus, in the parable, said the tares, the children of the wicked one, must be allowed to grow side by side with the children of the Kingdom until such time as the Lord sends forth His angels to remove the tares, because if we try to rout them out ourselves, we would root up the wheat also. We cannot establish the Kingdom of God by our own efforts, however well intentioned they may be. We cannot have the Kingdom without the King. Our responsibility is to actively proclaim the wonderful truths of the Kingdom of God and to spread the gospel of the Kingdom throughout these great lands of modern-day Israel, so that all will have an opportunity to know.

Even like Paul at Corinth, we are to plant and water, but we must also wait patiently upon our God to give the increase. We are also charged with the responsibility of declaring to our people and to our nations their sins, and exhorting them to turn to the law of God and those righteous principles, and to turn to God in seeking forgiveness where we have failed. If we are not in a position to actively do these things, then we should actively support those who can. But in so doing, we must be careful we are not following a man, that we are not supporting this pastor or that pastor, but our goal should be to support our Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, our Coming King.

In other words, we must build the Kingdom of God upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. He has promised that if we do this, no weapon formed against us would prosper. In the Parable of the Tares Jesus said he would destroy our enemies, and we would inherit the Kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world (see Isaiah ch.54 v.17). He has granted us the glorious privilege of being the nucleus of His eternal Kingdom for the purpose of serving Him, not glorifying ourselves, and demonstrating to the rest of creation the wonderful blessings which flow to those who will be faithful to the God of the whole universe. This is the purpose of God in establishing His special relationship with His Israel people. He has revealed what He is going to do, and He is giving us the wonderful opportunity of serving Him and helping Him as He carries on that work. Let us be certain that we build firmly only upon the Foundation that is Jesus Christ, Saviour, Redeemer, Priest and King.
