

A HOUSEHOLD BUILT ON A SOLID FOUNDATION PART 18 Ephesians Chapter Two

Ephesians 2:19-20 **SLIDE**

*[You are a] household ... ²⁰having been **built on the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

ANOTHER MORPHING CONCEPT

Last week we saw Paul amalgamating two concepts where a kingdom morphed into a family with a loving Father as its leader.

Today, we see Paul taking this idea even further ...

Today we see him taking **the concept of The Church Family and fusing it onto a Firm Foundation.**

Can you see it?

He takes a relational concept of a Family and infuses it into a structural concept with a Foundation ... **NOW GIVING US A NEW CONCEPT OF FAMILY WITH A FIRM FOUNDATION.**

PAUL IS INTEGRATING CONCEPTS TO REVEAL A COMPLETELY NEW THING

THIS NEW THING IS 'THE CHURCH' – A FAMILY WITH A FOUNDATION

This is something much bigger than our traditional view of church. It is far more profound – a concept never seen before.

Let us not try to figure it all out ... and contain it with our finite minds ...

*Sit back and **enjoy the ride of this** spiritual truth ...*

*Open your heart to this new concept of the Church ... and **embrace** it with awe and wonder ...*

*Let go and **rest** in the magnificence of His Church with a foundation.*

*Let it **expand your understanding** ...*

*It is **bigger than you** ... it contains us.*

SLIDE THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY WITH FOUNDATIONS

SO, WE SEE THE CHURCH AS A FAMILY OF AGAPE LOVE, NOW REVEALED ON A SOLID, SAFE & SECURE FOUNDATION ...

THIS IS NOT JUST A 'FREE-FOR-ALL' OF FREE-LOVE AND INTEGRATED IDEAS ... WHERE EVERYTHING IS ACCEPTED FOR WHATEVER SOMEONE BELIEVES & CHOOSES IT TO BE ...

SLIDE

*THE HIPPIE MOVEMENT CREATED COMMUNES WHERE THEY WERE ALL ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY WITH 'PEACE MAN!' IT WAS WHERE **FREE-LOVE FLOWED** IN EVERY LUSTFUL WAY POSSIBLE ... WHERE THERE WAS INITIALLY NO LAW ... AND DRUGS WERE PROLIFIC ... NOBODY OWNED ANYTHING ... SO PEOPLE TOOK ONE ANOTHER'S THINGS FREELY ... INCLUDING WIVES, HUSBANDS & PARTNERS.*

THIS IDEAL WAS GREAT FOR A FEW MONTHS, UNTIL PEOPLE STARTED TO RESENT BEING TAKEN FOR GRANTED ... AND PARTNERS GOT JEALOUS OF THE OTHER LOVERS ... WHERE LOVE STARTED TO TURN INTO BITTERNESS & PEACE GOT VIOLENT ... BECAUSE IT WAS A FANTASY WITHOUT ANY SOLID FOUNDATION. IT WAS PIE IN THE SKY ... SOME ETHEREAL PIPEDREAM ... A HOUSE OF CARDS ... WHICH EVENTUALLY CAME TUMBLING DOWN.

SLIDES x 2 *A HOUSE WITH NO FOUNDATION WILL EVENTUALLY FALL*

WITHOUT A STRONG & SOLID FOUNDATION THE UNIVERSAL FAMILY CANNOT STAND ...

SLIDE *THE FAMILY OF GOD IS A SOLID STRUCTURE BUILT UPON A FIRM FOUNDATION*

The God-ordained, loving relationships we now have in the church, are not only emotional connections, but relationships **built upon a solid foundation** ... *a place where our emotions rest and are healed* ...

SO WHAT IS THIS SOLID FOUNDATION UPON WHICH WE ARE BUILT?

IT IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES & PROPHETS

Ephesians 2:19-20 **SLIDE**

*[You are a] household ... ²⁰having been built on **the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

I used to think that this meant the foundation was the apostles and prophets themselves ...

But it's that **THE FOUNDATION IS THE RESULT OF THE MINISTRIES OF THE APOSTLES & PROPHETS ... WHICH THEY LAID.**

These Apostles and Prophets laid the foundation of the church.

BUT WHO WERE THESE APOSTLE?

AN 'APOSTLE' IS A NEW TESTAMENT TITLE

We know Jesus singled out 12 Apostles from among the disciples as His leadership team. These would be the ones (with the exception of Judas Iscariot) who would lay the Foundation Stones of the New Testament Church.

- **AN APOSTLE IS A PERSON CALLED DIRECTLY BY JESUS**

Luke 6:13–16 NIV

*When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom **he also designated apostles**: Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.*

PAUL WAS AN APOSTLE BORN OUT OF TIME. HE HAD SEEN THE RISEN CHRIST AND WAS CALLED DIRECTLY BY HIM (Acts 9:1-7)

YOU CAN'T CHOOSE TO BE AN APOSTLE

When I was a New-Born Believer, I knew a guy who was so zealous for God that he chose to be "An Apostle". 'I don't want to be a pastor or evangelist,' he said, 'I'm going to be an apostle.'

Unfortunately, 30 years later this guy is now discouraged and not in any ministry.

NO MAN CHOOSES TO BE AN APOSTLE.

JESUS DIRECTLY CHOOSES THEM FOR A SPECIFIC TASK ...

THESE APOSTLES WERE CHOSEN TO BE FOUNDATION BUILDERS FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

BUT WHO ARE THE PROPHETS?

A PROPHETS HEARS DIRECTLY FROM GOD & PROCLAIMS HIS WORD ... AS SHOWN BY ALL THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS.

HOWEVER ...

I don't believe the Prophets spoken of here are Old Testament Prophets ... Because they are mentioned after The Apostles.

THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY NEW TESTAMENT MINISTERS ... PEOPLE WHO WERE CALLED TO A POSITION REGARDING BUILDING THE FOUNDATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.

But here's the tricky twist ... The verse reads 'Apostles and Prophets'.

Can I suggest that these Prophets were chosen and ordained by God **from among The Apostles** – so these Prophets were also Apostles – a unique, select number, chosen to hear New Testament Truth from God and with the other chosen ones, to begin to lay the foundation of The Church.

THEY WERE 'APOSTLE-PROPHETS'

The Word 'and' as in 'Apostles **AND** Prophets' is the Greek conjunction 'kai'.

Now 'kai' has several meanings in ancient Greek –

It can also mean 'also', 'plus', 'OR' & 'namely' or it can just indicate transition from one phrase to another.

So if we interpret 'kai' as 'also' we read –

SLIDE 'Apostles **also** prophets' or 'Apostles who are also prophets'

NOW WE START TO SEE THAT THESE ARE NOT 2 DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE BUT 2 WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE ONE PEOPLE-GROUP ... THE ONE MINISTRY ...

IN OTHER WORDS THESE ARE 'APOSTLE-PROPHETS' OR APOSTLES WHO ARE ALSO PROPHETS.

THESE PROPHETS WERE ALSO APOSTLES SPECIFICALLY SET ASIDE BY THE LORD TO WRITE THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINE ... TO WRITE THE GOSPEL ... TO BRING US THE NEW TESTAMENT.

WHAT WAS THE FOUNDATION THAT THESE MEN BUILT?

NB: AT THAT TIME THERE WERE SO MANY WINDS OF ADVERSITY BLOWING PEOPLE OFF COURSE ...

THE JUDAIZERS bringing believers back under Jewish Law and customs ...

THE Gnostics saying Jesus was a mystical spirit and not real flesh and blood.

We read of John answering this –

1 John 4:2 Berean Study Bible

Every spirit that professes that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.

WHAT WERE THEY TO BELIEVE ... WHAT IS THE GROUND OF TRUTH?

REMEMBER: THERE WAS NO NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE AT THAT TIME ...

THIS WAS THE FORMING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINE

SLIDE

THESE MEN WERE CHOSEN & ASSIGNED TO ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS EVER GIVEN

THESE MEN WERE ...

- ***CALLED TO HEAR REVELATION FROM GOD ...***
- ***TO DETERMINE THE SOLID DOCTRINE OF NEW TESTAMENT TRUTH***
- ***TO LEAVE THE WRITTEN TRUTH OF NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINE FOR ALL MANKIND FOR THE REST OF TIME***

Paul writes his Epistles to Timothy years later –

1 Timothy 3:15 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

*In case I am delayed, so that you will know how each one must conduct himself in God's household, which is **the church** of the living God, **the pillar and foundation of the truth.***

LOOK AT HOW IMPORTANT THIS CALLING WAS

Acts 2:42

*... They continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

LOOK HOW IMPORTANT THIS WAS AT THE TIME

Acts 6:1-2 Berean Study Bible

... The Grecian Jews among them began to grumble against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

SLIDE *²So, the Twelve summoned all the disciples and said, “It is unacceptable for us to neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.”*

THEY DID AN AMAZING JOB.

THEY GAVE US THIS PRICELESS TREASURE FROM THE OTHER WORLD ... WHICH WE NOW HOLD IN OUR HANDS ...

They gave themselves to the Word of God (See Acts 6:4)

Acts 6:7 Berean Study Bible

So the word of God continued to spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem grew rapidly, and a great number of priests became obedient to the faith.

THE EPISTLES WERE WRITTEN SO WE MIGHT KNOW WHAT WE BELIEVE ...

1 John 5:13 Amplified Bible

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God [which represents all that Jesus Christ is and does], so that you will know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that you [already] have eternal life.

WHAT IS THIS FOUNDATION?

THIS FOUNDATION IS ALREADY LAID

IT WILL NOT BE LAID AGAIN ...

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 **SLIDE**

*According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid **the foundation** and another builds on it ...*

*¹¹For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid **(which I have already laid)**, which is Jesus Christ.*

THERE IS NO OTHER FOUNDATION

THERE CAN BE NO ADDITION TO IT.

YOU CANNOT ADD TO IT.

**SOME PEOPLE WANT TO ADD A MODERN WING TO THE CHURCH
AN EXTENSION TO MAKE THE CHURCH MORE ACCEPTABLE TO
THE WORLD & MORE TRENDY ...**

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS NEW TRUTH ...

**THE DOCTRINE HAS BEEN SET ...
THE FOUNDATION HAS BEEN LAID & WILL NOT BE LAID AGAIN**

**IF PEOPLE COME UP WITH NEW DOCTRINE APART FROM WHAT
HAS ALREADY BEEN WRITTEN**

THEY ARE BUILDING ON ANOTHER FOUNDATION

**WHAT ARE SOME OTHER FOUNDATIONS UPON WHICH
PEOPLE TRY & BUILD THEIR SPIRITUAL LIFE?**

- **THE FOUNDATION OF SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS**
Spiritual phenomena ... Gold Dust ... Teeth filled ... 'William Branham' type teaching ...
- **THE FOUNDATION OF PROPHETIC WORDS**
Self-appointed prophets who bring the latest word ...

Last week I heard one so called prophet saying that Satan was on the rampage getting people to sacrifice children because Satan gets more powerful from drinking The Blood of Children.

*BUT THERE ARE MORE SUBTLE PROPHETIC LIES THAT TAKE US
AWAY FROM THE FOUNDATION ALREADY LAID.*

*IT IS THE LOGOS WORD, THE DOCTRINE OF GOD - NOT THE
RHEMA WORD - THAT KEEPS US SAFE & SECURE ON THE RIGHT
FOUNDATION.*

- **THE FOUNDATION OF ANGEL VISITATIONS & INSTRUCTION**
*The Mormon Church was founded after Joseph Smith received a
visit from an Angel called 'Moronie'*
Islam was founded when Mohamad received an Angel visitation

- **THE FOUNDATION OF JUDAISM**
People embracing Judaism as a part of Christianity

- **THE FOUNDATION OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE**
Christians always fighting The Devil

THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE

THE FOUNDATION CLEARLY DEFINES THE BOUNDARIES OF THE HOUSE

Ephesians 2:19-20 **SLIDE**

*[You are a] household ... ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone** ...*

SLIDE THE FOUNDATION BEGAN WITH 'THE CORNERSTONE'. THIS CORNERSTONE WAS THE FIRST STONE LAID. AND THE FOUNDATION FINISHED AT THE CORNERSTONE.

THIS IS JESUS The Author and The Finisher of our Faith

The Alpha & Omega (Hebrews 12:2 and Revelation 1:8)

The Beginning and the end

- THE FIRST BLOCK WAS MODELLED FROM ONE SIDE OF THE CORNERSTONE
- THE LAST BLOCK HAD TO MEASURE UP EXACTLY TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CORNERSTONE

SLIDE *Like when I tune my guitar I start with the 'E' string and tune every string from the last one. When I finish with the Bottom 'E', if this does not match up to the 'Top E' I know I've gone astray somewhere along the way.*

SLIDE *It's like the old cash register. You ring-in your sales for the day and it tallies the total – say \$975*

But if you count the cash in the draw and you get \$972 you know there's been an error along the way ...

Some people start out modelled on Jesus Christ ...

But along the way they go slightly askew ... awry ... uneven...

This foundation ensures we stay on track ... that the True Church has Christ as central and every block speaks of Him and His shape – His character ...

This foundation **NEVER DEVIATES FROM THE EXACT DIMENSIONS OF THE TEMPLATE – THE CORNERSTONE – THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST – THE CENTRALITY OF CHRIST – THE IDENTITY OF JESUS CHRIST ...**

SO THAT WHEN IT COMES 'FULL CIRCLE' AROUND TO THE OTHER SIDE, IT LINES UP COMPLETELY & ACCURATELY ...

AFTER TIME IT HAS NOT DEVIATED ...

IT ENDS WHERE IT BEGAN

*FOR THOSE BEING BUILT ON THIS FOUNDATION, EVERY BLOCK WILL BE EXACTLY **MODELLED AFTER CHRIST ... EXPRESSING DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF HIS DIVERSE & UNIQUE PERSON.***

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF SOMEBODY IS BEING BUILT ON THE RIGHT FOUNDATION?

LISTEN TO THEM TALK AND JESUS IS CENTRAL TO THEIR LIVES.

THEIR HEART IS FULL OF HIM ... THEY SPEAK OF HIM ... HIS WORDS ... HIS REVELATION ...

THEY EMINATE HIM – HIS PRESENCE ...

THEY START TO ACT LIKE HIM – HIS COMPASSION – HIS DEDICATION TO THE FATHER – HIS LOVE FOR MANKIND

AN UNSHAKABLE FOUNDATION

THE UNSHAKABLE STRENGTH OF THE CORNERSTONE

Isaiah 28:16 Berean Study Bible **SLIDE**

So this is what the Lord GOD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; the one who believes will never be shaken.

THE UNSHAKABLE, UNBREAKABLE SOLID STRENGTH OF THE ETERNAL MAN OF GOD – JESUS CHRIST.

UNDEFEATABLE ...

MT ZION ... The Church which can never be removed but stands forever ...

People have tried to stamp out the Church ... tried to exterminate it
But the more they trampled on it, the greater it grew ...

The more they blasted it, the stronger it became ...

It had surpassing divine energy ... A SOLID SUBSTANCE NEVER SEEN BEFORE THAT IS NOT OF THIS WORLD ...

Matthew 16:18 Berean Study Bible

*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church and **the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.***

**COME BACK TO JESUS MY FRIEND!
COME BACK TO THE TRUE FOUNDATION.
COME BACK TO HIS WORD.**

**HE IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH, WHICH WE ARE ALL BEING
BUILT INTO, UPON A SOLID & SECURE FOUNDATION.**

You may be feeling insecure as adversity swirls around your mind
and emotions ...

You may be depressed by looking at an uncertain future ...

But no matter what you may be feeling ... God has provided a sure
and unshakeable foundation for you, upon which you will never be
moved.

CEMENT YOUR LIFE ON SOMETHING SOLID.

*Yes, you will still feel the uncertainty ... the insecurity ...
But IF YOU KNOW YOU ARE SET UPON THE ROCK – THE
CERTAIN FOUNDATION – these feelings will come and go like wind
bursts ... And YOU WILL CONTINUE ON ... SET UPON A CERTAIN
COURSE AND SOLID FOUNDATION*