



**IF THE FOUNDATION BE DESTROYED
WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?**

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It is just so good to be here again this morning; we just thank God for all His mercy and goodness towards us, and we really appreciate Him. So we are going to be reading today starting in the Book of Psalms, and there is a scripture that came to my mind that I feel like reading. That Book of Psalms is a beautiful Book. David just started writing psalms and praising God, but in them we find prophecies, and one would have to say his psalms were definitely the inspired Word of God. So we just thank God for that. We will begin reading in Psalms 11:3, and it says, "*If the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*" I want to speak on the thought, *If the Foundation Be Destroyed What Can the Righteous Do?* Now that is what David was saying in the Book of Psalms, "What is the righteous going to do if they don't have a foundation, or if the foundation be tampered with? What are we going to do if we don't have a good foundation that's not tampered with?" So I feel like this is what the Lord would want us to speak on this morning because of the way it came to me, "If the foundation be destroyed." Actually, it came to me when my wife Barbara asked me a question, and I just brought that out. She said, "That is strange, because it just seemed like you had the answer and you knew what I was going to ask you. You had the answer right there." That is the way God does sometimes, many times you speak by inspiration. So if the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do? Now let's bow our heads in prayer. *Heavenly Father, Lord, I just thank you for your goodness and your mercy upon us, and for the way you are leading and guiding your people in this hour. Lord, I especially want to thank you for the way you are keeping your saints so encouraged, so lifted up, and so blessed. Lord, many times we get to feeling like David did when he said, I ran through a troop, and leaped over a wall, and he danced before you with all his might. Lord, I just thank you for that joy and that Spirit of God that causes our hearts to burn within us as it was with the two disciples on their way to Emmaus as they listened to Jesus. Then as they talked to each other after He made Himself known, "Did not our heart burn within us as he spake to us on the way." Lord, I just pray now that you will send your Word and cause the people's hearts to burn within them as they rejoice in thee. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

Now as we look at this subject of foundation, I have been a builder, and I know something about a foundation. I know that is an important part of any building; especially here in the mountainous areas I would say it is extremely important, because when you build on a mountainside you really have to have a good foundation, or your building is eventually going to crumble. Now I want to read next in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 3, where Paul is talking about laying a foundation. Please keep in mind our thought, "If the foundation be destroyed," or "If the foundation be tampered with," what is the righteous going to do? We have to have a foundation that is not tampered with. There was one in the Bible that spoke of building with untempered mortar and the foundation couldn't stand. We are not building with untempered mortar as we look at what God is doing in this hour. But I want to speak here and read of Paul

laying a foundation, and I am in 1 Corinthians 3:9, and Paul is saying, *"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."* I want you to notice, "We are laborers together." Now we could ask the question, who is that *We*? It is everyone that is baptized into the body of Christ and has come to the church of the living God. It's not just the preacher, but it is all of us together. We are all building together. That is the way it is, not one man, not one person, but Paul says here, "We are laborers together." God sent Paul as an instructor and in Verse 10 it tells that, *"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereupon."* (Meaning we are the builders.) *"But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon."* And here is why, Verse 11, *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."* Now we see that is where we start building from; we're laboring together. He's the foundation, He's the Word, and He's the beginning of a new creation. So if you tamper with that, you are not building for Christ, especially when it comes to the Gentiles. God used Paul to call out a people of the Gentiles, and Paul said, *"I am laying the foundation as a wise master builder, because of this grace that has been given to me."* It is so important to build on that foundation just like Paul laid it, which is Christ, the Word.

Now in building you can have certain exact measurements and they can be the desired measurement if you are building a square building, and yet the building could end up cockeyed. I got a good experience on this once in building. I left the laying of a foundation to some men that were working with me, and I told them the size of the building because they were doing the foundation for it. I said, "Be sure to get it like this, because it has to be right." We were building a metal building, a precut metal building where the pieces were already cut to specification, so the foundation had to be right. So the men were very careful to get it right, and they did get it right as far as the distance from one corner to another measuring along the side of the foundation. It was exactly right. But I walked up and looked at it, and I said, "There's something wrong with this foundation here, it's not exactly right. Something is wrong with it." They said, "Oh no," and they got the tape and measured it and it was exactly the right measurement. But what they failed to do was this, they failed to measure the hypotenuse of it; that means going from the right corner from the front end, and then to the left corner on the other end. Then from the right back corner to the left front corner, and only then both measurements being the same is it square. So there was one corner of this building that was a foot and one half different. It is what we call cockeyed. So the building would not have fit on that foundation with those measurements. In order to get it perfectly square, it has to measure the same each way triangularly. The men said to me, "We never thought of that." So we had to get busy and redo it. Now a wise master builder would have known that it had to measure the same triangularly. But they weren't acquainted with building so much. They knew how to read a tape, a measurement, so they got the measurements right as long as it was measuring a straight line, but they didn't have it square. That is the way people do on the Word. But Paul said, "He was a wise master builder." God saw that the foundation was laid, and we can't tamper with it. We have got to go with the foundation as it was laid. We can't build our own foundation, because God gave Paul the grace to know exactly how it should be. I'm talking about the foundation for the Gentile bride. So what David said was inspired Word, "If the foundation be tampered with or be destroyed, then what is the righteous going to do?" Paul

laid something in there for righteousness, and we have to have that righteousness that Paul laid in. And the righteousness that Paul laid in is this type of righteousness: it's not what we do, or have done, or what we will do; but it is what Christ did. Paul said, "He took our sins and gave us His righteousness." In the Book of Romans, Chapter 5, it says, He gives us the gift of righteousness. Now anytime a gift is involved, if there is any payment involved at all, then it is not a gift. The only thing that is involved is acceptance, and we accept it. We thank Him so much, and we do everything we can to please Him. That is the foundation, but denominations started trying to obtain it by works. There is another scripture here in 1 Corinthians 4:15-16, and it reads like this, *"For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me."* In other words, this is the way it is; there are not two or three ways. "Though you could have ten thousand people instructing you, yet you have not many fathers," he said, "I have begotten you." In other words, I have brought a gospel and I laid the foundation, and he says, "No other foundation can be laid." Now that part is very important, because no other foundation can be laid. Think about it!

Now going to the Book of Acts, Chapter 20, and I want to begin in Verses 28-30, and use the example about the foundation. The measurements might have been the same in the example I gave you, but I said, "One look at the foundation, if you were a builder, one look at it and you could see that something wasn't right about it." Sometimes it is so close, and you have to be wise and examine everything or you won't get it right. It has to be on the true foundation. When we begin to look at the foundation that Paul laid, it was for the Gentiles, and that makes a big difference when we begin to talk about the church today. Because there were twelve apostles to the Jews, and God typed these foundations out as 'building a wall' for the city New Jerusalem (Revelation, Chapter 21.) The point here is each one laid a foundation, the *twelve foundations* of the wall was named for the twelve Jewish apostles. But Paul said, "I laid *the foundation*" – one foundation for the Gentile Bride. And that foundation is on the inside of the city with all the other foundations supporting it. The purpose for a foundation is to build something on. Paul said, "I laid the foundation, but you are going to be the builders." In other words, "What I am starting this is not the end of it, but it is the beginning of it. This has to go on, and on, and the revelation of the Word of God will continue to flow." What I want you to look at here in Acts 20:28, Paul is saying, *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he has purchased with his own blood."* After Paul said this God revealed to him something, saying, "You've done your job, you've done it well, and I am going to take you home now." This caused Paul to get the people together and tell them *this*, he said, *"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."* Christ told Paul that there would be those that would come in among them and they would try to tamper with Paul's foundation suggesting that, "You do it just a little different. We know Paul was a good man. He did this and he did that and it was wonderful what he did; but let's make some adjustments in it." No. Paul said you've got to build on *this* foundation, and there won't be another foundation. Now there will be the building of the building, but not another foundation. You have to have a basis in the Word of God for what you are doing. What Paul is telling here is how some would come in and try to change this, or change that. Here in Verse 30, he then makes an astounding

statement, *"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."* That's destroying the foundation; that's taking it away from what Paul said. In other words, "What Paul said was good, but it's not quite good enough, we can do it better." Well, the Word of God says, "If the foundation be destroyed, (or tampered with) what shall the righteous do?" **Because in that foundation he put a righteousness that is unobtainable by any human means.** And that righteousness that he put in there, we can't work hard enough for it, we can't pray enough to get it, but what we do is believe and accept it. Once we accept it, we appreciate that He has done so much for us, that we do all we can to please Christ. What we do, it's not to get better, because when you got your salvation it was perfect the day you got it. When Christ came into your heart, He was perfect. Now we can grow in grace and the knowledge of God, and we should do that. But we are not trying to improve on our salvation to make it better. It is already perfect, and when something is not broken we don't try to fix it. Is that right? When your salvation is absolutely perfect, and when there is a righteousness that is absolutely perfect, then we can't improve on that righteousness. But some of them tried. Christ warned them, "Even of your selves." First he said, "They will come in," and they did that. Then he said, "Even of your own selves," see, that's a stinger right there. Even those among you will want to change this just a bit, or that just a bit, to make it more attractive to people. Well, you don't try and make this attractive to people, but you try to make Jesus attractive to people. Amen. Not a church building, not a program, or I think if we did it this way, or if we did it that way, I believe it would be a little better. Well, as long as it is on Paul's foundation, then it's right. You're building on that. He said, "Another builds, but it can't be on a different foundation; it has to follow this line." Praise God! Paul laid scripture in, and the scripture is the foundation, and we can't do anything without scripture. Now I want to read Chapter 15 of Acts. I believe it will be profitable for us, since we are dealing with the foundation. It will show us that this thing is real, it's right, it's not something we can do or not do to please ourselves, but Paul is showing a plan where he laid some scripture in here. Now in this last day, Christ the Mighty Angel appears among us, and the building – He has put the finishing touches on it.

Now I want to show you what Paul is saying, *"If you are justified by the law, you're fallen from grace,"* because this is strictly grace; it's without works and you don't change it. It has to be this way. There were some Jews that came down from Jerusalem that thought they had a better idea than Paul did, but the Jews don't have anything to do with this. This is for the Gentile wife. Now God is going to send two prophets to Israel once the rapture takes place. It will be two Jewish men with the spirit of Elijah and Moses. This is in Chapter 11 of the Book of Revelation where it shows that these two prophets will come in there, they'll begin to prophesy, they'll turn the water to blood, they'll smite the earth, and there will be a revival that will strike over there in Jerusalem like the world has never seen since Pentecost. But we, the wife of the Lamb, will be in glory. So building on the foundation that Paul laid is not something the Jews can tell us how to do, because Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles, and there weren't two of them. In Romans 11:13, Paul said, "I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my office." He wasn't to the Jews, he was to the Gentiles. So these Jews up at Jerusalem heard that the Gentiles were accepting this and that Paul was telling them that they didn't have to be circumcised; they didn't have to do this, or that, and whatever was set before them to eat, drink, and ask no questions. You don't have to get all bound up with do's and don'ts. So those Jews said, "We

can't let that go on like this, because Paul is giving them too much liberty. We need to go down and get this thing fixed." You can't fix it when God gave Paul the revelation to lay the foundation, and it can't be tampered with. No other foundation can be laid for the Gentiles. Paul said, "I laid the foundation, but another buildeth thereon." And we are builders to build on it. It has to be like Paul said. But these Jews in Acts 15:1, heard what Paul was doing. It says, *"And certain men which came down from Judea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved."* Oh my, that messed up the foundation. You can't build on that. Because Paul said, "Circumcision or uncircumcision availeth (means) nothing, but you are free in Christ." But here came some that said, "Wait a minute Paul, you are telling those people that this doesn't matter and that doesn't matter." They came in and tried to push Paul aside and do it a better way. You don't push God's men aside and do it a better way. Paul was the one, and the only one. He said, "I am the father of it. You have a lot of instructors, but I'm the one that has begotten you. And this is what I have begotten you with, the true Word." So these outsiders came in from Judea, the Jerusalem area, and said, "Except you be circumcised after the manner of Moses, you can't be saved (you have to do just like Moses said)." Well, that wasn't on Paul's foundation. There are a lot of things today that people are trying to do that are not on the foundation. But as God used an apostle to lay the foundation, he has an apostolic ministry to build just like Paul said, and as soon as the wife of Christ sees something that is not like Paul laid it out, they recognize it. For instance, when I drove up on the job site (in my earlier example) they had certain measurements that were right, but I recognized immediately something was wrong with the picture. So something is wrong with the picture if the Word of God says He has set us free, it's not by works, but it's by His righteousness, and then somebody says, "You have to do this, and you have to do that, you have to be circumcised, and all these things." Then something is wrong with that picture. Because the truth is what you do, you do it because you love Him, you know it is right, and you just want to please Him. You may say, "Brother Howard, are you saying that we don't have to live right?" I'm saying, "If Christ is in you, then He will do the living. He'll live His life out through you. It is not if I do this, I'll be better, or if I do this, I'll be worse. What you do is yield yourself to Christ, and die out to yourself. You die, and your life is hid with Christ in God. It's Christ in you, the hope of glory!"

Let me read on in Verse 2, *"When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question."* Paul said, "This is not what God gave me." That's why they had no small dissension. Paul stood firm. He said, "I am not going to be moved around; you're going contrary to what God revealed to me when you say we have to be circumcised." Paul wouldn't let it rest. Paul didn't say, "Well, I made a mistake." No. He laid the foundation. He was not willing to settle for something that would take them away from the grace of God. Therefore I'm not willing today to settle for something if someone tries to put you under works, if you do this or that you will be more righteous. Your righteousness is in Christ. He took your sins and He gave you His righteousness, and you can't get more righteous than that. And because of that, you love Him so much, you appreciate Him so much that you just do everything you can to please Him.

Verses 3-6, *"And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria declaring, the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees,"* in other words, there was a group among them. They could have it if they wanted, but Paul wasn't going to put up with it. Now watch, at Jerusalem they had people up there with different beliefs and some of them were saying, "Moses said, Moses said, Moses said." Now I want to tell you something today about this good Word of God, when somebody asks me about the Word of God, I don't have to go back and say this preacher said this or that. No. That's not what you asked. You asked me about the Word of God. Those men of God that He used back there stood with truth for their time period. But we have crossed over Jordan into Canaan's fair land, and we didn't stop there, but we've come right over into Eden.

Look what it says, *"But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed....* Yes, they were believers. Yes, they believed in Jesus... *saying, that it was needful to circumcise them and command them to keep the law of Moses."* Now watch that. That is what was wrong. He said, "If the foundation be destroyed, what shall the righteous do?" This would destroy the foundation if they tried to build on it, because there was a certain righteousness and it had no works involved. You didn't have to keep the Law of Moses, because the Word of God says in the Book of Galatians 3:24-25, "The law was given as a school master to bring us to Christ, until the seed should come. But when the seed is come, we are no longer under the school master. We are no longer under the law (or church age law)." But these Jews wanted to do it differently. See, if the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do? This would destroy the foundation if it was left that way. That is why God brought something back in this last day, the prophetic part of Paul's message, making it known and revealing it, bringing it in by the little book that is brought down from heaven, a message that will fit exactly on this foundation.

But they commanded them to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses. *"And the apostles and elders came together for to consider the matter. And when there had been much disputing..."* I like that part, sometimes disputing is good. If somebody comes in here and says you have to have a certain amount of works, and you have to do this or that, you think I won't dispute? Oh, yes I will. I'll say, "We are redeemed by the blood of Jesus. We are made righteous by the blood of Jesus. He took our sins, and gave us His righteousness, and we can't get more righteous than that. There was some disputing going on, because Paul was not willing to have something in that foundation that was different from what God gave him. In order for it not to be, he stood up on his feet, and he stood tall. He wasn't willing, even if it meant disputing with the hierarchy of the Jewish church. The Jews had not recognized it and I'm not sure Paul knew all the ends and outs of it; but they didn't recognize that this man right here (Paul) was the man that God had ordained for the Gentiles. So they wanted to keep Paul straight. They wanted to keep a whip on the Gentiles that were listening to Paul, especially when they heard Paul was telling the Gentiles that they didn't have to do this or that, and what ever was set before them, eat, drink, and ask no questions. He even told Timothy to drink a little wine for the stomach's sake. Paul didn't tell them they couldn't eat swine meat, or they had to keep the Sabbath. In Paul's day it was on the first day of week they came together, and Paul said in 1 Corinthians 16:2, *"Upon the first day of week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him that*

there be no gathering when I come.." The Gentile church worshipped on the first day of the week which is Sunday. Sunday is the first day of the week. Saturday is the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, and that is what they had in the Old Testament. Today some preachers say, "We're glad to see you came out on this Sabbath day to worship the Lord." No. The Sabbath is Saturday, the seventh day. But when Jesus resurrected from the dead, He resurrected early on the first day of the week, and that is our Sunday; that's our resurrection day. That is when we come together to worship Christ. We can do it seven days a week, because we don't esteem one day particularly higher than another. But when we look at the resurrection, we don't go back to Saturday.

Now continuing Acts 15:7-11, *"And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up and said unto them, Men and brethren... Peter saw that Paul was going to argue about this thing, so he stood up and said, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God which knoweth the hearts, bear them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost even as he did unto us. And put no difference between us and them purifying their hearts by faith. Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear."* I tell you, old Peter finally had to be honest, didn't he? He said, "Our fathers couldn't keep the law, neither have we kept it." Why? Because there was Paul sitting there, and Paul wouldn't leave it alone. They would have rather Paul wouldn't have said anything because it says there, *"after much disputing."* Paul is not going to shut up, so let's do something to get rid of him. Peter went on... *"But we believe through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they."* Then when we go on to Chapter 21 of Acts, we see that Paul went up to Jerusalem again, and when he got up there they were offering sacrifices and doing certain rituals for purification and even got Paul to partake of some of it. But you can't mess with the foundation. It's got to be the righteousness of Christ; it can't be by works.

I want to read some scriptures in the Book of Romans 9:30-33, and it tells something about this foundation. It has to be this way, it can't be another way. Let's start with Verse 30 and it says, *"What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith."* Now what Paul is saying here is, the Gentiles never worked to keep the law, they have never done any of these things. They were just sinners. But they accepted the righteousness by faith and not by works. But the Jews wanted to put forth their works, the circumcision, and all these things, and when you do those things, you destroy the foundation. If the foundation be destroyed, where can the righteous stand? The righteous can only stand in one place, that our righteousness is not by works, it's what Christ did for us. *"But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not obtained to the law of righteousness."* The law of righteousness is faith in Jesus Christ, and they hadn't obtained it. *"Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone. As it is written, Behold I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence, and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."* Now this thing is a stumbling stone to a lot of people. When we come and say, "It's not what you have done, it's not what you are doing, nor is it what you will do, but it's what Christ did at Calvary." A lot of people stumble over that. They say, "You give people the license to do any old way they want to." No, I'm

saying, "If Christ is in you, then it's Him that is doing what's to be done, and you can't get more righteous than that."

Chapter 10:1-3, *"Brethren, my hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge."* Many people have a great zeal to do something for God. But the best way to please God is to accept His Word. If you are a Gentile, then find out what Paul's foundation is and build on it. *"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness."* Now I could make a sermon on that... *"ignorant of God's righteousness."* Now Paul laid the foundation and he put a righteousness in there; and God has never changed that righteousness for the Gentiles, it's still the same. It's not by works, it's by grace; and the Jews were ignorant. How could that be? How could I be righteous without keeping the law, and without being circumcised? If I eat swine meat, how could I be righteous, and if I drink a glass of wine, how could I be righteous? I'm reminded of the old Pentecostals, and many of you came up through that. We couldn't drink coke colas because it had caffeine in it, and it was a sin. You couldn't drink coffee. I tried to go by their foolishness and I'm glad I was involved, because I see how foolish it was now that I have come out on the other end. They said, "If you like something just give it up for God and you'll be more pleasing to Him." For instance, one Pentecostal preacher said, "If there is something you like to eat real good, don't eat it, give it up for God as a sacrifice, then God will bless you for making that sacrifice to Him." So I liked ice cream real good, and I still do. But here was this preacher saying, "Give it up for God and you'll get closer to Him." Well, I said, "Lord, I won't eat ice cream any more, so I can get closer to you." Well, I quit eating ice cream for a long time, maybe about a year. I wanted some so bad I couldn't stand it; especially when I saw someone else eating it. Then, another preacher came by, and he said, "Jesus didn't take the vinegar there at the cross, so if you take anything with vinegar in it, then you dishonor the cross." So I said, "Lord, I won't eat any more pickles." So now I couldn't have a cola, couldn't have coffee, couldn't have ice cream, and now I couldn't have pickles. I was getting in bad shape. But one day, God spoke to me, "The just shall live by faith, not by works." He showed me that He had given me the gift of righteousness. He made all the sacrifice I need. I went to the store and got some cola's, coffee, ice cream, pickles, and had a good time! See, that is exactly what the Jews were doing. They thought you should be circumcised; you had to do this and you had to do that, then you would be righteous. No. That is destroying the foundation that you're to be built upon. That is what is wrong with the people today. They are in so-called churches that are not on the foundation. When you get on the foundation just right, you will hear this, "I laid the foundation, but another will come and build on it." Paul said, "God has given me wisdom as a wise master builder to lay this thing just right for that which is coming down upon it. (Revelation 10:8-11) And we are laborers with God."

Let's go on with Romans 10:3, *"They being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness..."* That is what the people are doing today, and you will never get anywhere with God like that., *have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."* And that is very hard for church folks today, even now to submit to the righteousness of God. In order to submit to the righteousness of God, you've got to have this revelation, there's nothing I can do to be more righteous, absolutely nothing. I'm talking about the righteousness of God now. There is nothing I can do to make my salvation better. I can be a better person as I let Christ live in me. It is Christ doing the work. "It's not me that doeth the work, but he

worketh in me." And if you follow that line, you will exemplify Christ in the earth. Then we can say, Christ in you, the hope of glory! But the Jews didn't submit to the righteousness of God. They thought they had to work. And when you put your works in there, if you put any works at all to be righteous, you're destroying the foundation. And if you destroy the foundation, what can the righteous do? You've got to come and say, "Lord, you live your life through me. You let me die, and you live in me Lord. Lord, I deny any righteousness that I might have. Lord, I accept yours. I deny any religious experience, or anything like that to make me righteous. Lord, it is you and you alone." *In Christ Jesus alone for the cleansing this I see, nothing but the blood of Jesus.* There's absolutely no works that will bring you this righteousness. But does that mean we go out here and do like a wild bunch of hogs? No, because Christ lives in us. The Apostle Paul laid the foundation, and he put this righteousness in there, and when the building is completed there will be an end time message, and it will be speaking of the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, without works. John spoke of it and said, "The Lamb's wife has made herself ready, and to her was granted that she should be clothed in fine linen, clean and white, which is the righteousness of saints. (Revelation 19: 7-8) That's exactly what Paul put here in the foundation; and so that it would fit upon the foundation, He gives us His righteousness. So is it by works? How about the works? You can and should maintain good works; you can do good works, but not to earn righteousness because righteousness is a gift. And if you depend on one speck, one whit of your works for your righteousness, if you depend on it, then you are denying the righteousness of God, and that is getting off the foundation that Paul laid. "If the foundation be destroyed." What are you building on today? Where are you standing today? You've got to know where you are standing. Paul said, "I laid this foundation, I am the father of this, unto me this gospel was committed, not by words of man's wisdom, but it come by revelation." He said, "I didn't go up to Jerusalem to learn about it, but I went down into Arabia and after three years I came out. This was made known to me by the revelation of God." No other preacher in the early church or since has preached this righteousness of God up until now to fit on Paul's foundation; but there is a message here at the end time getting the job done. That foundational message got a people engaged to Christ. Paul said, "I espouse you as a chaste virgin to Christ so that I may present you as His wife." Well, Paul went off the scene, but before he did, he said, "There are grievous wolves that are going to come in, and they won't care about you; all they will want is a crowd and for you to pay your tithes and give them money." Paying tithes are good, but don't do it just because somebody tells you to do it, but this should be in your heart to do it. I had somebody ask me not to long ago, "Does it say in the Bible that you have to pay tithes?" I said, "Under the law it was a commandment to do so, but under grace it is what you know in your heart is the right thing to do." See, there was a man named Abraham and he was the father of faith, but no one told him to pay tithes. We see that Melchisedec came to Abraham, and something inside Abraham's heart said, "I want to give you a tenth of all." (Hebrews 7:2) He wasn't told to, but God told him in his heart. No, it's not a law. But if you are born again with Christ living in you, then you do like Abraham did before the law age began, because something within him caused him to give a tenth to the minister of God. Then later on it was put into a law. But what you do now, you do it out of the freedom and love in your heart. If I say you are going to hell if you don't pay your tithes, I'm lying. But if I say, "Obey Christ," then you will do what is right according to the Word.

Let's go back to Romans, Chapter 15, just for a few verses, and I want to show you the foundation. It talks about the foundation, and to show you that we have to be built upon the Word and not our own ideas. I remember hearing a preacher one time say, "There's nobody going to preach for me if they have a television in their house." Well, I tell you, I wouldn't want to preach for a preacher like that anyway, because if he is that much in bondage and under the law, there is no telling what else is wrong with him. The foundation of God standeth sure having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His and He knows them that are not His, and salvation doesn't come by works.

I want to read Romans 15:4, *"For whatsoever things were written, aforetime were written for our learning..."* Now I want you to notice that. We wouldn't know about Moses and many of these things if it hadn't been written for our learning. There was a flood one time and it destroyed the world as it existed in that day. How do we know? Because we find it in the scripture and it was written for our learning. There was a man named Jesus, and He came to a religious world and they crucified Him. We have this in the scriptures, and we know that. The Bible is the only Book that tells us where we came from, where we are at, and where we are going. But the Bible without the Spirit of the Word would be of little value to us, it would only be the tree of knowledge. I am preaching by the Spiritual Word, but I am using natural Word as my foundation to finish out Paul's building, where it says, we are clothed in fine linen, clean and white.

Now between the laying of the foundation and the finishing up, there were the church ages. In the church ages we washed our garments, and we had a lot of do's and don'ts. We had to wash our garments and make them white. But when we arrive at the end of the journey, into Canaan land, and on into Eden, He takes that traveling garment away, the one that had to be washed. He gives us fine linen, clean and white, which has never been soiled, and that is this message you are hearing today. It's the righteousness of God. Amen! He's giving His wife the fine linen, clean and white, so she doesn't have to worry all the time, "Have I done right?" If you set out today to go the rest of the day and not do anything wrong, you would be a failure, because the very thoughts of foolishness is sin. But no, you say, "Lord, I trust in your righteousness," and let Him live in you; then you have it right.

Now getting back to the scripture and it says, *"Whatsoever things were written afore time was written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."* Now I want to show you how important the scriptures are. There was a man that said to me once, "We are getting so close to God that pretty soon we won't even need the Bible; we will just walk by the Spirit." Well, that is not what Paul put in the foundation. You are destroying the foundation if you say we don't need the scriptures. We need the scriptures, and we need to know what scripture applies to each situation. If I tell you, "Build an ark, because a flood is coming," well, that is scripture, but I would be teaching something to you that was wrong. The flood has already come. If I said, "Jesus is going to come and die for our sins," then I would be teaching wrong, because He has already done that. He came and was crucified two thousand years ago to take away sins, and He rose from the dead, came back in the form of the Holy Ghost, and now in this last day He has come back as the Mighty Angel, Christ in you the hope of glory!

If the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do? The righteousness is laid in the foundation and if we deviate from it, then we have nothing to stand on. We can go right back to the Word and find how Paul put righteousness in his foundation. There was one apostle to the Gentiles to lay the foundation, and now the righteousness is being capped off here in this end time. Let him that has an ear hear what the Spirit saith to His wife. God bless you today.

Let us pray, Heavenly Father, thank you Lord for your love goodness and mercy, and I just praise your name because you are real, and you are moving by your Holy Spirit. Now bless everyone that hears this Word. And Lord may you help us to just look to you, to that righteousness, and be sure that we are built on the foundation, be sure that we don't do anything to disrupt the foundation, because this is sitting exactly on the foundation that Paul laid. There were those when Paul went off the scene that tried to deviate just a bit to draw disciples after themselves, presenting it in just a little different way, But Lord now you have come and you've presented it, and it is exactly right and it fits on the foundation perfectly and now we have the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, and Jesus you are all I need. Amen.