

How Firm A Foundation

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He, Himself, likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death -- that is the devil; (15) and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”
[He.2:14-15]

“For we are made partakers of Christ -- if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.” [He.3:14]

The blessed gospel doctrine of substitution can never be too frequently reflected upon. In this day and time this doctrine of God’s grace is continually being denied and even reviled by the bulk of so called Christendom. Many Christian professors will assent to the fact that Jesus Christ was a great man in history. And, it is also true that Muslims and Buddhists agree with this! Many Christian professors will agree that Christ Jesus was a most noble example of a selfless servant of God, but they will not agree that He, indeed, was God -- that He is the only constituent of human history who was the God/man -- the eternal Son of God/Son of man -- the Savior of His elect Church.

It is the purity of this doctrine that is constantly being denied in one form or another among the multitudes of this world’s Christian community. And, it is the purity of this truth of the gospel that is the foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ being for us our Propitiation: “For verily He took not on Him the nature of angels -- but He took on Him the seed of Abraham. (17) Wherefore -- in all things -- it behooved Him to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in the things pertaining to God -- to make reconciliation [i.e. (lit.) be the propitiation] for the sins of the people.” He.2:17

May God be pleased to grant us His Holy Spirit of grace to hold fast to this doctrine -- this source of our confidence -- firm unto the end of our days -- unto our passing from this earthly experience into the eternal bliss of heavenly peace.

Jesus being in reality this great and wonderful a Savior is solid evidence that He, as the person of the Son of God, was divinely confirmed in the everlasting covenant and eternal counsel of the Great Triumvirate to be the Redeemer of all of God’s chosen for eternal salvation. His being

their eternal propitiation is the very foundation of their eternal salvation.

This was eternally purposed, eternally promised and eternally performed for us for the eternal glory of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gal.4:4-5 tells us that “*in the fullness of time*” within the whole earthly history of fallen humanity God sent His Son into the history of this world. He sent Him, and He made Him, to be under the law -- specifically to redeem them that are under the law -- “*that we might receive the adoption of sons*”.

This includes every fallen sinner of God’s choice under the ancient Hebrew economy of Mt. Sinai -- and, as well, every sinner of God’s choice throughout all of the generations of the whole of fallen humanity. For both the law and adoption existed before there ever was a transgressor of the law and/or there ever was an adopted child of God.

The strength of the law to condemn any sinner -- of any age -- is the sin that makes a sinner the sinner that they are by birth, or the sin that the sinner personally commits in their thought, word or deed. And, the strength of sin is the law [1Co.15:56]! What a perfect setting to set forth a great need for a great Savior!

Therefore, the scripture descriptively declares: “*Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation stone -- a tried stone -- a precious cornerstone -- a sure foundation.*” [Is.28:16]

Peter referred to this text when he was inspired to write: “*Wherefore it is contained in the scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone -- elect -- precious -- and he that believes on Him shall not be confounded’. Unto you therefore which believe -- He is precious...*” [1Pe.2:6-7] [see Ro.9:33]

Christ Jesus, our Lord, is this precious cornerstone. He is the only foundation -- “*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid -- which is Jesus Christ.*” [1Cor.3:1]

And, just exactly when was this foundation laid upon which our eternal

salvation wholly depends? And, who exactly is the one that laid it?

Why -- the Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as being “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”! Therefore, this foundation was laid before the foundation of the world!

The 1Co.3 text says of His being the foundation that it is a foundation that “no man can lay”. This by itself means that no one but God could fix and establish the eternal Son of God, Jesus Christ, as the foundation for our eternal salvation. He is, as the scripture says, the Corner Stone of God’s, and God’s alone, erecting and construction. The Bible plainly says that God announced to every hearing ear and every seeing eye -- “Behold I lay in Zion” mine elect and precious Cornerstone.

Zion is a type of the elect Church -- the building of God -- the Bride and Body of Christ...and Jesus is its Cornerstone.

The Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, announced that “Upon this Rock I will build my church -- and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!” Mt.16:18

When He made this great statement concerning a right and accurate understanding of the meaning of “this Rock” -- He was referring to Himself being known and understood as being “the Christ -- the Son of the living God”.

It is to this truth that a veritable abundance of scripture gives testimony and witness: “The Lord is my Rock and my fortress and my deliverer”

“And who is a Rock -- save our God?” 2Sam.22:2,32

“Unto thee will I cry, O Lord, my Rock” Ps.28:1 “_

“Thou art my Rock...” Ps.31:3

“Be thou my strong habitation [lit. “the Rock of my habitation”] whereunto I may continually resort. Thou hast given commandment to save me -- for thou art my Rock” Ps.71:3

“Thou art my Father -- my God -- and the Rock of my salvation” Ps.89:26

“My God is the Rock of my refuge” Ps.94:22

“Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation” Ps.95:1

“Therefore, whosoever hears these sayings of mine -- and does them -- I will liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a Rock...”

Mt.7:24

“that Rock was Christ” 1Cor.10:4

In eternity, God laid this foundation! In His Trinity of Persons, He took counsel and did determine -- did purpose -- that the Church of the Christ of God -- which consists of a number that no man can number -- should be eternally saved through the person and work of the Cornerstone of His choice, Christ Jesus, the Lord!

Furthermore, this salvation for the chosen sinner does not begin when the chosen sinner begins to know it! They come to know it only because it was in God’s heart and purpose from all eternity that it should happen that they come to know it. It is God’s decree that gives birth to the experience of the chosen sinner’s coming to know that he has been by God and His sovereign grace chosen unto eternal salvation. In short, God’s decree brings forth the revelation of Himself and His saving work on behalf of chosen sinners that, in turn, truly and genuinely regenerates them. The chosen sinner has nothing to do with the experience except to be the blessed -- the happy -- recipient of it from God -- by God -- according to God’s choice of time and place for the real regeneration experience to happen.

The divine decree that gives birth to this experience comes directly out of the very heart of God. The eternal purpose of God that has, by the Holy Spirit, been accomplished in Christ -- was originally formed in God’s loving heart. It is from here, too, that eternal salvation’s plan was drawn up and from where the Savior Son of God -- the Lord Jesus Christ -- was sent forth. And, it is in here, as well -- in eternity, even in the very heart of the Christ our God -- that each individual of the Great Congregation of the elect Church was chosen and was placed...in the eternal safety of Christ Jesus, their eternal Surety. How firm a foundation He truly is!

“For we which have believed do enter into rest -- as He said, ‘As I have

sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest' although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. He.4:3

“Father, I will that they also -- whom thou hast given me -- be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory which thou hast given me -- for you loved me before the foundation of the world!” Jn.17:24

“The righteous is (has) an everlasting foundation.” Pr.10:25

