

## Hebrews 5.12

### Learning The Foundations

Last week we reviewed some of the foundational truths of the faith. But sometimes we still scorn the basics in a desire for more exotic tastes... sometimes we think that if it's not new, it's not good. In the question of spiritual truth, nothing could be further from reality. Novel ideas and "new revelations" will always lead us astray. We need to be ever learning and checking the foundations of the faith so that the enemy is not able to undermine our faith with his sly deceptions. We are constantly under attack and sometimes those attacks come from within the body. Our duty is to know the truth so solidly and profoundly that when lies are told we don't follow them. To do this we must always be learning and reminding ourselves of the foundations that make up the faith.

#### **I. GOD HAS PROVIDED HIS WORD –**

God has given us His word so that we might know the truths we need to know for salvation. –

## 2Timothy 3.13-17

- a. Science bows to scripture NOT the other way round
  - i. Gap theory
  - ii. Day/age controversy
  - iii. Second world - all are mere man-made lies and should be discounted for all of them
  
- b. Culture should be shaped by His Word, it should not be given the power to re-write what God has said.
  
- c. The church and her practices are drawn from the Word of God rather than from the preferences of the pagans among whom we live

## II. GOD HAS MADE IT PLAIN –

He has made it available to us in words that we can read, and it is the primary instructor of His people.

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Psalm 119.154-155

### III. IT IS NOT OPTIONAL –

The truths that He teaches us from this fountain of life are those first principles that we MUST know –

#### Proverbs 2.1-15

- a. They are plain and easy to be learned in concept
- b. While mysterious, and deep they are accessible to us if we will but seek to know them
- c. The only thing that keeps us from understanding them is our own sin, rebellion and basic laziness to obey God. –

#### Luke 16.27-31

- d. Once we have begun to learn these basic truths, they become the way in for us to know deeper and harder things.
- e. Our love for them grows and we delight in thinking about them –

## Psalm 119.47-48

f. We draw comfort and hope from the knowledge of them that God grants –

## Psalm 119.49-50

g. These deeper truths themselves are also paths further in to the truth of God –

## 1 Peter 1.22 - 2.3

h. If we neglect to pursue the truth, we will revert and lose what we have gained. –

## Galatians 6.7-9

i. When we diligently pursue the truth, we will always grow and increase –

## Psalm 119.105, 162

**IV. IT IS SEQUENTIAL –**

If we do not have a firm grasp of the foundational principles then all of our "higher" thinking and understandings are mere human speculation, falsely based and erroneous. We become great swelling emptiness, much on the surface, nothing in substance. –

### 2 Peter 2.12-22

- a. Some will always search out the most obscure and vain speculations before they have hold of the basics, and will as a result twist their own growth so that they are one of two types
  - i. "Always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth," –

### 2 Timothy 3.2-7 -

- wearing themselves out in the pursuit of what they cannot understand, and not ever led into the truth they deny
- ii. OR, "vainly puffed up in their fleshly minds", presuming that they have understood some

great and marvelous thing beyond the grasp of normal men. –

### Colossians 2.18-19

- b. This is why some, although they seem to be studying the Word, show little to no growth for the labor they put in.

## V. IT IS PREPARATIONAL –

All Biblical preaching assumes some level of familiarity and understanding of these foundational truths. And for those who do not have the understanding of the basics, nor the humility to seek to learn them, the preaching of the Word is lacking its full force and thrust.

- a. This is the problem that the writer has with the church at Jerusalem. He wants to share deeper things and see them grow unto perfection and maturity. However, he sees that they are not able to take them in and so he must revert to the basics again.

b. This is often the problem with how we hear the preaching of the Word. We are often quick to blame the preacher for our lack of understanding. And while the careful expositor must always seek to be winsome and clear, the hearer must also always seek to be ready to receive truth.

- i. Prepare your heart for worship, for the hearing of the Word of God
  - 1. Spend time in prayer before
  - 2. Seek the Lord to show you sin that should be repented of
  - 3. Come to the house of God with your own spiritual offering of praise and study. Bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of God.

### Hebrews 13.13-16

- ii. Study on your own. Spend time in the word and prayer all week long so that your heart is softened toward the things of God.

- iii. Seek to grow in your understanding of the truth.
  - iv. Become fluent in Biblical things and thinking.
  - v. Listen to good teaching at other times
  - vi. Reflect on what you read and hear and apply it to your own heart
  - vii. Repent of known sin and ask God to show you where you still need repentance.
- c. The lack of these things is why many fall under the sway of wicked and false teachers.

### Colossians 2.4-10

- i. For they do not have the discernment to see the lie.
- ii. Often these lies seem wondrous and appealing until they have been swallowed.
- iii. Only then does their true nature become obvious as the people who follow them become more and more carnal even while professing their great spiritual understanding.



## **VI. IT IS LIFE -**

Make no mistake, these foundational truths are what promise us knowledge leading to salvation. Nothing else can fulfill this promise and nothing else can show us Jesus.