

GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING

Jeremiah 2:9-19; 2 Timothy 2:14-26 / Proverbs 10:1-32

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” (2 TIMOTHY 2:19)

I. God the Father Has Chosen His People and How to Save Them

A. God has a plan for redemption and He follows it from the start. “Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, *I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.” (ISAIAH 28:16)

B. The believer who trusts in God to save him and solve his problems is like a wise builder who starts with the best foundation. “*He is like a man which built an house*, and digged deep, *and laid the foundation on a rock*: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.” (LUKE 6:48)

C. Pastors and congregations committed to building as the Bible directs build well. “According to the grace of God which is given unto me, *as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon*. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.” (1 CORINTHIANS 3:10)

D. Doctrine and history compliment one another as one looks back across the ages at the appearance and development of the church. “And are built upon *the foundation of the apostles and prophets*, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;” (EPHESIANS 2:20)

E. Abraham, the Father of the Faithful, expected the pattern which history reveals. “For *he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God*.” (HEBREWS 11:10)

II. Jesus Christ Has Done What Must Be Done to Save People

A. The only plan of salvation presented in Scripture is the SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT through Jesus Christ. “*For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us*, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.” (1 THESSALONIANS 5:9-10)

B. Salvation is from sin to righteousness. “*Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works*.” (TITUS 2:14)

C. The redemption pattern gives all the credit to God. “What shall we then say to these things? *If God be for us, who can be against us?* He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, *how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?* Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? *It is God* that justifieth. Who *is he* that condemneth? *It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?* *shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*” (Romans 8:31-35)

D. The only motivation for redemption is God’s good pleasure. “*Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children* by Jesus Christ to himself, *according to the good pleasure of his will*,” (EPHESIANS 1:5)

E. Simply believing the truth is the only thing which God has left to His people to do. “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because **God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.**” (2 THESSALONIANS 2:13)

F. God, not some human accomplishment guarantees the success of faith. “Who are **kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 PETER 1:5)

III. There Is No Other Means of Salvation

A. Though there are many human reasons to fear or doubt salvation, they are nothing but wind because the believer’s security is in Who God is the one guaranteeing salvation. “**As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.**” (PROVERBS 10:25)

B. Jesus took redemption very personally and so should believers. “I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for **them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.**” (John 17:9)

C. According to Jesus, only those given to Him by the Father can come to Him. “But there are **some of you that believe not.** For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that **no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.**” (JOHN 6:64-65)

D. People who depart the faith never actually were believers. “They went out from us, **but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued** with us: but **they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.**” (1 JOHN 2:19)

+ Dr. Edwin P. Elliott