

## On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand!

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### Introduction: The Danger of Self-Deception.

- A. Self-deception can be a very dangerous activity!
  - 1. A person who is self-deceived is oblivious to the consequences of his actions (e.g., inflated ego, promiscuity, reckless spending, pornography).
  - 2. The most dangerous self-deception is when we believe we can continue to practice sin without eternal consequences (**2 Thes. 2:10-12; Jas. 1:15**).
- B. Many who claim to be Christians are self-deceived, blind to their true spiritual condition before God.
  - 1. Many who believe they are Christians are not living the Christian life.
  - 2. The Day of Judgment will be a startlingly awakening for those who merely act “religious” and do not respect Jesus as Lord (**Mat. 7:21-23**).
- C. Going beyond listening to God’s word.
  - 1. Those who believe they are blessed by God *just* by listening (or reading) God’s word deceive themselves (**James 1:22-24**).
  - 2. Genuine disciples of Christ are “effectual doers” of God’s word (**James 1:25**) who their best to obey the Father’s will (**Mat. 7:21**).
- D. Applying what we learn from God’s will to our lives.
  - 1. To conclude the “Sermon on the Mount,” Jesus teaches the importance of applying what we have heard to our lives (**Mat. 7:24-27**).
  - 2. To call Jesus our *Lord* is **to do** what He says! (**cf. Luke 6:46-49**)

### I. The Two Types of Foundations for Living.

- A. The Rock (**Mat. 7:24-25; cf. Luke 6:47-48**).
  - 1. "The Rock" stands specifically for the words of Christ (**Mat. 7:24**).
    - a. With His word we will stand and without His word we will fall!
    - b. By His words we will be judged on the Last Day (**John 12:48**).
  - 2. The foundation of Christ and His apostles (their Word) is what God’s house is built upon (**Eph. 2:19-20; cf. 1 Cor. 14:37**).
  - 3. “The Rock” also stands for the Lord Himself in whom we believe and put our trust (**Eph. 2:20; cf. 1 Pet. 2:6; Ps. 18:2**)
  - 4. Christ is the foundation of “God’s building” (or church) and the foundation to daily living for the Lord (**1 Cor. 3:9-11**).
- B. The Sand (**Mat. 7:26-27**).
  - 1. The sand represents a loose foundation having **no** foundation in Christ.
  - 2. The foolish man who built his house upon the sand no doubt did not listen to instructions! (**Prov. 12:1**).
  - 3. Most people build their lives on shifting, uncertain, and unstable “sand.” (**Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23; Prov. 12:15; 2 Cor. 4:16a; cf. 2 Cor. 5:7b; Luke 12:19-21; Rom. 12:2; 2 Tim. 3:1-4; Eph. 4:14; cf. 1 Tim. 4:16**).

**Examples:** Emotions; Impulsivity / Impatience; External / superficial; Trust in Wealth and Possessions; Worldly Thinking; Selfishness / Self-centeredness; Religious Error:

- 4. With such a shaky foundation, great will be the fall of that house!

## II. What's Your "House" Built Upon?

- A. Building "the house of life."
  - 1. Depending on *how* we build, will make all the difference to our success or failure in life.
  - 2. Even if we somehow survive "the fire", what will happen to our family for example if we have not built well? (e.g., **1 Cor. 3:11-15**).
- B. Both builders *appear* to build well (**Mat. 7:24-27**).
  - 1. Both houses may *seem* the same; yet on the inside, at the heart and foundation of the house, there are big differences!
  - 2. There is often an overemphasis on the outward appearances to the neglect of the heart and genuine discipleship (**Mat. 23:27-28**).
  - 3. A house built upon the wrong things has no *real* foundation.
  - 4. A house built on Christ and His word has *true* strength!
- C. We all need a safe and stable "house" to live in.
  - 1. *Both* builders desired a house (**Mat. 7:24-27**); everyone wants the stability, safety, protection, and comfort that a "house" can bring.
  - 2. Disappointment comes for the person who puts trust in a home that is unspiritual, where Christ is never a welcome guest! (**Job 8:15; Pv 3:33**).
  - 3. Only by a commitment to Christ and His word will our house successfully stand (**Prov 14:11**).

## III. Will Your "House" Stand or Fall? (**Prov. 12:7**)

- A. Everyone's house or life will be tested by "the storms of life" (**Mt 7:25, 27**).
  - 1. Each part of the storm could possibly represent different types of challenges or troubles that we may face in life.
    - a. Rain = Trials (**1 Pet. 1:6-7**).
    - b. Floods = World forces (**Col 2:8; 2 Tim 3:12**)
    - c. Winds = Satan's attacks (**1 Pet. 5:8**).
  - 2. Depending on the foundation, our lives will either stand strong or collapse when challenges and tribulation come.
- B. The ultimate "storm" we must prepare for is the Judgment Day (**Jer. 23:19**).
  - 1. *What is death to us?* -- Is it the fear of impending doom or confident assurance of going to heaven after having lived for God? (**Heb. 9:27**).
  - 2. God did not appoint His children to receive His wrath (**1 Thes. 5:9**), yet if we continue in sin that is exactly what we will get (**Heb. 10:26-31**).
  - 3. Rather than ignore that the "storm" is coming, we need to always have our "house" ready for the Judgment Day (**Luke 12:35-40; cf. Mat. 25:13**).
- C. *Only* by Christ will we stand!
  - 1. If we have built foolishly in the past, we must rebuild a *new* foundation upon the words of Christ (**Mat. 7:24; John 12:48**).
  - 2. After becoming a Christian, we must continue to be "built up in Christ" and keep our "house" strong in the Lord (**Col 2:6-7**).
  - 3. Standing right in the sight of God requires standing upon "the Rock" where grace and forgiveness of sins is found (**Titus 3:5-7; cf. 2 Tim. 1:9**).

**Conclusion: Build Your Life Upon the Only Sure Foundation – Jesus Christ the Solid Rock We Stand!**