***Rebuilding the Foundation of the Apostles and Prophets***

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***Introduction:*** We cannot discard God’s foundations and have fellowship with Him.

 A. Where did the Lord *place the apostles before us*? **(Eph 2:20)**

 1. Why are we told this? What if *we build on another foundation*?

 2. The consequences of this neglect are all around us. *Whose voice do we really* *hear* – the writings of men or the delivered words of the apostles? **(1 Jn 4:5-6)**

 B. While Jesus spoke many words, He wrote nothing. *How then does He speak to us?*

 1. God worked a plan through Jesus to give us *a confirmed, written word*.

 2. Fellowship with God comes through these words. **(Jn 6:63, 68; Acts 11:14)**

3. These words are *the only means* by which we can know and believe in Jesus.
 **(Jn 17:20)**

 3. Men in rebellion *seek other subjective ways* and lose any fellowship with God.
 **(Isa 50:10-11; Prov 3:5-7)**

***I. God’s eternal plan involves delivered words***

 A. Jesus came to fulfill and teach God’s plan *that was delivered to Him*. **(Jn 17:4-5)**

 1. Jesus goal was *to glorify the Father*. How did He do this?

 2. He was given a work that He accomplished. Everything He did pointed to God.

 B. Jesus repeatedly pointed out that *He taught and did nothing of Himself*. **(Jn 17:6-8)**

 1. Jesus would *only do* those things that He saw the Father do. Without
 instruction *He would do nothing*! **(Jn 5:19-20, 30)**

 2. Jesus wanted His followers to understand that the Father delivered his teaching to
 Jesus. He wanted others to *test the source of doctrine*! **(Jn 7:16-17)**

 3. Jesus respect for the delivered words of God would lead him *only to act* when the
 Father gives instruction. Jesus would give these *same words* to us! **(Jn 8:28-32)**

 4. Jesus said He and the Father will *“make our home” (fellowship)* with the one who
 abides like He did in these delivered words. **(Jn 14:21-24)**

 C. The example set by Jesus was instilled in the apostles. **(Jn 17:14-19)**

 1. The genuine *words of God will be hated* by the world.

 2. How did Jesus “sanctify” Himself? He did it *in the passages we have read*. He
 emphasized and lived *staying within the words* that God delivered to Him.

 3. Any study of the love of God found in this chapter is empty without a proper
 attitude towards the delivered words. It is more than a “narrative.” **(Jn 17:26)**

***II. How did Jesus prepare and present His apostles to His followers?***

 A. What is an apostle?

 1. This is a name *Jesus chose* for them. **(Lk 6:13)**

**Apostle** - **1.** *a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders* **2.** Specially applied to the twelve disciples whom Christ selected, out of the multitude of his adherents, to be his constant companions and the heralds to proclaim to men the kingdom of God: - **Thayer’s Lexicon**

 2. The word apostle can also be used in a general way. **(Acts 14:14)**

 B. Jesus interacted with these men before He chose them. *He prayed all night* before
 He made His final choice. **(Lk 6:12; Mt 4:19-22)**

 1. He then *let His choices be known*! He is going to *work through these men*.
 2. He trained them for over 3 years. Imagine men who *are trained personally by* *the creator of the universe*! **(Jn 15:27)**

 C. Jesus’s would “bind and loose” as Lord through these men. **(Mt 16:19; 18:18)**

 1. *Any implementation of Jesus as Lord* would include their work! **(Lk 6:46)**

 2. One’s attitude towards the apostles *is the same* towards Christ. **(Jn 15:19-20)**

 3. *Jesus wrote nothing* instead he chose these men to work through!

 4. No sins would be forgiven *without their revelation*! **(Jn 20:21-23)**

***III. How was the early church taught to handle the words delivered by the apostles?***

 A. Jesus worked by the Holy Spirit *through the apostles*. **(Jn 14:24-26)**

 1. The Holy Spirit would give a perfect remembrance of what Jesus spoke to them.

 2. The Holy Spirit would teach them *additional things* from Jesus. **(Jn 16:12-15)**

 3. This message does not require ability, memory or study. **(Mt 10:19-20)**

 4. Please understand the sobering and *powerful claims of inspiration*! **(Eph 3:5)**

 B. Every Christian was to be taught the foundations God has given. **(Eph 4:4-6)**

 1. Consider the “one faith!” This involves both *the words delivered through the* *apostles and our attitudes towards them*. **(1 Cor 4:6)**

 2. These foundations are openly *being surrendered by many* in local churches.

3. In a local church if either the “one baptism” or the “one faith” is not taught and
 practiced then *one’s fellowship with God is endangered*. **(2 Jn 9-11)**

 B. The Apostles simply “handed down” what *they had received* from Jesus.
 1. Pay attention when you see these words: “*tradition*, *delivered* and *received*”
 **(1 Cor 11:2, 23; 15:3; Jude 3)**

 2. There was a consistent teaching *to be applied to all local churches*! How have
 we received this instruction today? **(1 Cor 4:17; 7:17; 11:16; 14:33-37)**

 2. To fail to obey this “tradition” delivered from the apostles is to *forsake* *Jesus Christ Himself*. **(2 Thess 3:3-4, 6, 12, 14)**

 3. When an epistle was given to one church it could then be given to other
 churches and *thus to all generations*. **(Col 4:16; 1 Thess 5:27; 2 Pt 3:1-2)**

***IV. One application of this foundation – Instrumental Music***

 A. How should we approach the Lord’s Supper? **(Mt 26:26-28)**

 1. Does *the outward form matter*? Suppose we *substituted hamburger and coke* for

 the “fruit of the vine” and “bread?”

 2. Could we use “bread” and “fruit of the vine” but add some peanut butter to it?

 B. How should we praise God in our worship?

 1. When God wanted instruments in the OT *He said so*! **(2 Chron 29:25-26)**

 2. Why not look at *every verse in the New Covenant and see what God wants*?
 **(Mt 26:30, Acts 16:25; Rom 15:9; Eph 5:19; Col 3:16; Heb 2:12; Heb 13:15; Jas 5:13)**

 3. This is an application of the foundation. *This takes time and maturity*!

 4. Misunderstandings often arise because *the foundations are not present*!

***Conclusion:*** Upon what is *the foundation of our heavenly abode* placed? **(Rev 21:14)**