



We are a congregation of the Lord's people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Thank you for being our Guest today!

Created Full Grown

Cecil May, Jr.

The proposal that the earth is billions of years old is based on calculations as to how long it takes for organic material to turn into oil, for example. If you could have met Adam the day after he was created, how old would you have guessed him to be? He was, of course, created full grown. There is no reason not to assume that other things created were also created full grown. A full-grown earth, planned by a Creator who knew what would be needed, would have had mountains, canyons, hills and petroleum.

That is easier to believe than that the earth began with nothing and gradually, accidentally became the earth we now have. That is our choice: an intelligent, all-powerful Creator or nothing becoming something, accidentally evolving into, not only a full-grown earth but intelligent, rational beings capable of seeing, hearing and talking.

Take your choice. I have made mine. ***"...What may be known of God is manifest in them [mankind], for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse"*** (Romans 1:19-20 NKJV).

Service with a Smile

Ralph Clevinger

Someone Needs to Know about Jesus Cliff Holmes

*Someone needs to
know about Jesus,
someone so lost in sin,*

*To experience the joy
of salvation and new
life in Christ to begin.*

*Will you tell the story
of Jesus? Will you
spread the most
wonderful Word?*

*For many are groping
in darkness, and so
many have never
heard.*

*Through Him sin's
bonds are broken,
and blind eyes are
made to see.*

*So let the message be
spoken, that sin's
captives are forever
free.*

*His light will drive
away darkness and
turn your dark night
to day.*

*He will fill up our
hearts with gladness,
driving shadows of
doubt away.*

*Come to the loving
Savior, whom
everyone needs to
know,*

*Give your heart to the
Master, and salvation
He will bestow.*

As Christians, we are the servants of the Most High God. What an honor! The service we render ought to flow out of appreciation. Jesus' sacrifice and our obedience to the Gospel bridges the great divide between our once lost state and our heavenly home. We do not have one ounce of hope without the blood of Christ. Once we commit one sin, we become morally bankrupt, Jesus put it this way, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin"** (John 8:34 NKJV). The longer we engage in sinful acts, the more natural that way of life becomes to us (Ephesians 2:3). However, salvation results from changing our mind about sin and obeying the Gospel through faith (2 Corinthians 7:10; Acts 2:38-39) – [an obedient faith (Romans 1:5; 16:26) rather than a dead faith (James 2:17, 20, 26)] – which leads to baptism for the remission or the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 22:16). – Louis Rushmore, Editor. Living by [obedient] faith gains us the victory over sin and death (1 John 5:3-5; Revelation 2:10).

When we consider our past condition and our new hope, grace actually teaches us to live differently. Paul explained it thusly, **"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age"** (Titus 2:11-12). The receipt of grace ought to humble us to the point that we change our very lives. Every ounce of pain and torment that Jesus experienced paid the penalty for our sins. In other words, He suffered on the cross so that we did not have to suffer eternally. He took upon Himself the punishment that was due us.

This newfound life we enjoy should be spent serving our Heavenly Father. Why? **"You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy"** (1 Peter 2:9-10). Not only should we serve our Heavenly Father, but we should do so with joy and gratefulness. There is no greater work than to help others gain their heavenly home. We should be more than glad to share the Gospel, pray for others, lead others in gaining biblical understanding and encouraging faithfulness. This work brings our Lord glory and honor. Therefore, let us serve our God with joy while we have breath in our lungs.

Kids Say the Funniest Things

A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A small girl replied: "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?"

You are not ready to live until you are ready to die.

The Right Foundation

Chuck Taylor

The foundation is ever so important when constructing a building. Concrete reinforced with rebar is the usual construction method. There are building codes and constant inspections to ensure regulations are met. Builders are held accountable for any errors in the foundational support. Constructing a building without these codes could cause the building to collapse.

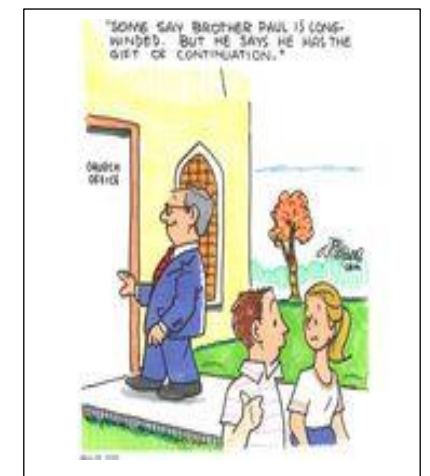
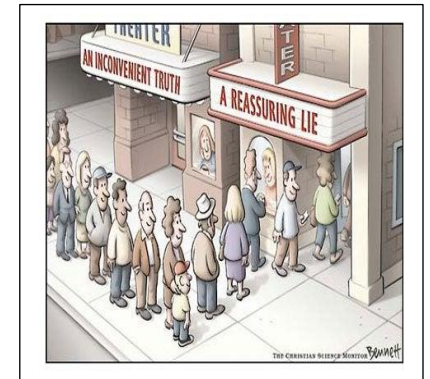
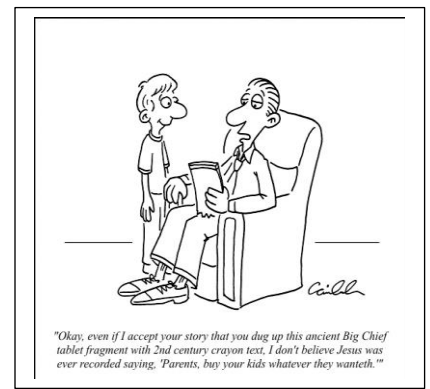
According to God, it makes a difference where we build our spiritual foundation. Christ gave the example of one who built his house on sand. Many heard the sayings of Christ but did not do them. When the winds came and the rain descended on the house, it fell because it was not founded upon rock (Matthew 7:24-27). Here, the rock for us is the Word of God. All of the church's activity must be founded in the rock of the Word of God.

In another sense, Paul told the Corinthians that ***"no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ"*** (1 Corinthians 3:11). Many churches claim attachment to Christ, but unless they have submitted to His will, they are not His church. Therefore, Jesus Christ is not their foundation.

Notice Matthew 16:15-16, which reads, ***"He [Jesus] said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'"*** (NKJV). In verse 18 Jesus said, ***"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."***

Jesus built His church on the fact that He is the Christ. He is the Foundation and the Head (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18)! Any organization that builds on some other foundation or has a different head is not the church of the Bible. The gates of Hades shall not prevail against the Lord's church. Any institution founded by man cannot stand against Satan. Only the church of our Lord will, in the end, stand.

It is grand that our foundation is the Christ our Lord! We recognize that He is the only One Who build the sure foundation – He is the foundation! Therefore, when we build with His will – the Word of God – we build upon the Rock or Foundation, Who is Christ. Examine your foundation and determine whether it is from man or from God. If from man, then discard it. If from God, then forever cling to it. Think about it!



This Week's Q&A

Q: What prophet foretold where Jesus would begin to preach?

A: Isaiah in Isaiah 9:1-2, fulfilled in Matthew 4:12-17. *Context:* Isaiah tells of difficult, grievous times for Zebulun and Naphtali, but at the same time, he prophecies of a time to come when they would see a great light and that great light would shine upon them. When Jesus begins His ministry there, as recorded in Matthew 4:12-17, He refers to Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 9:1-2.

Aside: Burton Coffman in his commentary states that because of the geographic location of Zebulun and Naphtali, they were the first to reap the difficult times of repeated invasions, and sometimes received worse treatment than some of the other tribes of Israel in Old Testament times. The tables were turned for them when, in New Testament times, they were the first to see the light of the Messiah as He performed His first miracle in Cana (John 2) and preached His first sermon in their synagogue (Luke 4).



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Five Finger Prayer

1. Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember.
2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in pointing others in the right direction.
3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion.
4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger, as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need your prayers day and night.
5. And lastly comes our little finger, the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be greatest among you". Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective, and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively. Courtesy; "Moma Teacher"

Our mind is like a garden. Weed daily.

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Church of Christ

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Mail me to
someone
who might
read me!