

# How Firm Is Your Foundation?

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On Cape Cod a sandbar on the outer banks of Chatham, which protected the southern shore of the Cape from the Atlantic Ocean, was recently broken through. Chatham Break has caused the dramatic erosion of the main shoreline and undermined the foundations of many beautiful homes built on the sandy bluffs. Several homes have been washed into the sea. Little did their owners imagine that their homes, founded upon the sand, would one day be destroyed.

A parable addresses this in Luke 6:47-49: "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

Today great care is taken to ensure that house foundations are built properly to prevent future disaster. Soil tests are made to make sure the soil can be compressed to hold the weight of the structure. Concrete is tested when it is poured to ensure its structural integrity. Foundation walls are designed to bear the full load of the house. When all of these precautions have been taken we feel secure in our homes because we know that they are well founded.

Unfortunately, the same care is seldom expended on the foundation of our lives in preparation for eternity. This is ironic since our earthly homes are temporary even if we live in them for a lifetime. The Bible says: "Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches, none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him—for the redemption of their souls is costly, and it shall cease forever—that he should continue to live eternally, and not see

the Pit. For he sees wise men die; likewise the fool and the senseless person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inner thought is that their houses will last forever, their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man, though in honor, does not remain; he is like the beasts that perish. This is the way of those who are foolish, and of their posterity who approve their sayings" (Psalm 49:6-13).

According to God's Word, while we may be able to pay the debt on our mortgages in a lifetime, there is one debt we cannot pay the debt our sins have incurred. We do not even have the proper currency to pay the debt. The price of our redemption is too costly. One day when life is over we will each have to answer to our Creator for how we have lived in His world. According to God's Word, if we have lived for ourselves and failed to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength and our neighbor as ourselves we will be cast into outer darkness. All of the comforts of our earthly homes, with which God has blessed us in this life, will be taken away forever. This is the danger of which Jesus warns us in the parable: building our lives on foundations of sand. Such shoddy building ends in eternal destruction.

But there is good news! God is so good by nature that He has sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to live a perfect life of love in our place. His holy life lived for God and His neighbor is just the currency we need to pay the debt for our sins. This is why He died: to pay the awful debt we owe. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Only Jesus Christ could pay the costly price required of God for our sins. This is what Jesus meant in the parable about the person who built his foundation on solid rock. "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them" is like a person who builds his house on a rock (Luke 6:47). Jesus Christ is the only solid Rock to build your life on. Every other foundation is sand.

If you are troubled about your lack of a solid spiritual foundation, Jesus invites you to come to Him, admit your sinfulness, ask Him to forgive your debt and become His follower. He promises that if you do this, He will give you everlasting life, and He will become your everlasting home.

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" (John 14:23).

Important as the foundation of your earthly home may be, it is nothing compared to the importance of your everlasting foundation. What is your life founded upon, sand or solid rock? This is the most important question you can ever ask. What is your answer?

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