

# God's Foundation

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(Preached in Lagos)



**"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (II Timothy 2:19).**

The word 'foundation' is common to every one of us. Before any good building is constructed, there must be a solid foundation so that the house can stand. All God's buildings are built on a good foundation - Holiness. All that the Lord created; time, man, the firmament, animals, things in the sea and above the sea, were created in HOLINESS. Jesus Himself was born Holy - without sin. He offered Himself willingly to die for the sins of the world, that His blood might redeem all that believe in Him.

We read from our Bible that Jesus lived in this world almost two thousand years ago. Wicked men nailed him to the cross He died and was buried, the third day He rose again and later ascended into Heaven. He is now sitting at God's right hand. The standard He laid down remains Holy, because it is a sealed foundation. The testimony in the Bible is, "The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." His name is identified with Holiness. In the world today, some workers are identified through the badges or uniforms they wear. Some have identity cards which contain their pictures to identify them. A Nigerian soldier or Policeman can easily be recognized when in uniform or through his identity card.

Similarly, there is identification in the bible for Christians - "The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." To be identified with God, you have to burn the bridges that connect you with the world and stand out - Holy. "Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." Is that undertaken by everyone who name the name of the Lord? Is it a practice in this world, that all who name Him renounce iniquity?

When we call the Lord's name in sin and tell others we are Christians, we are deceiving ourselves and others, because the identity of a Christian, which is Holiness, is not there. Let us read from Ephesians 2:21-22: "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an Holy Temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Here is a food for thought for every one of us in the world, 'who have connections with Jesus. Nowadays many people call on Christ. There are so many denominations all over the place; in a street there can be twelve different denominations. They all claim to be for Jesus. We are all attaching ourselves to Christ. Definitely, if the whole world should call on Him it will not be too much for Christ because He died for the whole world - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

Therefore, it is not too much for God if everyone in the world is attached to Him. But we often overlook some vital points. Through whom do *we* have access to God? It is through Jesus - Christ. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6).

So if all will have access to God, it must be through our Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus called His disciples, He saved them from their lives of sin and gave them conditions of being true followers; "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24).

Let us look into the life of Paul, a persecutor of the cause of Christ. On his way to Damascus to bind and bring back the Christians who had fled from Jerusalem for their lives, God stopped him and had a dialogue with him which opened a new chapter in his life. "And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem, And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

And he said, Who art thou Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against pricks." (Acts 9:1-5); With trembling and astonished heart, he submissively asked "What wilt you have me to do?"

Here is Saul a highly learned man, a great intellectual of his days, who knew much of the law but was ignorant of the way to life. He was blind to the truth, so he persecuted the Apostles and followers of Jesus, The sad thing was that he did all these thinking he was pleasing God.

**"Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you.**

**(And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, they kept the more silence: and he saith,)**

**I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.**

**"And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.**

**"As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished." (Acts 22:1-5).**

God knew him, God saw his heart. At the time he was going to Damascus, backed up with authority, he was leading a troop to go and persecute the followers of Jesus Christ.

God confronted him on his way, stopped him and exposed him to the marvelous light of the Gospel. There was no need to resist or kick against the truth, it was too plain. He yielded his heart and surrendered to God; all his knowledge, his plans, his religion (for he was very religious but was lost), his wickedness etc. Saul surrendered his all. "Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ, Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord• for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Philippians 3:6-8). I repeat his question "Lord what wilt thou have me do". It takes heart that has received the touch of the Master's hand to ask that question.

Well, God changed his life completely, schooled him and empowered him for His service. We have all lived to see all that God accomplished through him who later became Paul.

In time past we were all foreigners without God, but praise be to God that Jesus have saved us. (Ephesians 2:19-20). "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." (Ephesians 2:19-20). Thank God, we can still go about today telling the world that Jesus is still in heaven praying for His saints and still saving souls. The world is known by the work of the flesh. All over the world whether in Nigeria or overseas, white or black, they are known and identified with sin. They have in them adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envying, murder, drunkenness, revelings, and things like that.

With all their popularity, civilization, education and all they are carrying about in the world, they glory in telling lies, fraudulence, murder, and every evil one can imagine. Our newspapers are full of names of civilised people and intellectuals who are criminals. Many of them have faced the firing squad, many hanged and many are still undiscovered. What names do they bear? Ezekiel, Innocent, Jeremiah, Peter, Mary, Martha, Esther. Some even bear the name of JESUS - EMMANUEL. But are they like their counterparts in the Bible? They have . Christian names but not Christian identities.

Christians are identified with HOLINESS. Let us read some of the identities of a Christian: "Love, *Joy*, Peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, and beautiful heavenly qualities like that. The testimonies of the redeemed are the same, whether intellectuals or none intellectuals. When one comes in contact with God, the love of God and all that is in His will floods his heart. On the other hand, all that is evil vanishes - pride, lying, fighting, adultery, the love of cigarettes, alcohol, drug addiction, etc. Dear reader, have you been identified with God? Pause a little, give God a chance to deal with your heart, and be prepared to talk it over with God for the Bible says the foundation of God standeth sure having this seal "The Lord knoweth them that are his, let every man that name, h the name of Christ depart from iniquity."