



The Foundation is Christ

Introduction

Good day to everyone here, today I want to preach a message on "The Foundation is Christ."

How sad it is that people live their whole lives climbing the ladder of success, fame and fortune and when they come to the end of their lives, they discover that the ladder was against the wrong wall and was built on the wrong foundation and for all eternity they will be separated from the One who loved them so much that He sent His Only Son, Jesus Christ to die for their sin.

How sad for a ministry to build their whole existence on a foundation that is not Jesus Christ, some churches build their ministry on the experience, nice praise and worship, great singers, expensive chairs, instruments, and sound equipment but not on Jesus Christ.

Some churches build their ministry on money or other things when the Bible clearly says we need to build on no other foundation but the One which is already laid, Jesus Christ.

We need to wake up, life is not about making millions of kwacha, life is not about build a beautiful house or driving a fancy car, although we need house and transportation.

Life is not about showing people how rich you are because all these things will pass away and the only thing in life that will be left is you and the people you take with you to heaven.

Jesus commanded in Matthews 6: 19-24 *"¹⁹ Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! ²⁴ No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

My question today is, on what foundation are you building your life? And where is your treasure?

What is your foundation

The definition of a foundation is the lowest load bearing part of a building typically below ground level. And we can apply this principle to our Christ life or ministry.

What is the foundation that you are building your ministry on or your life on? Is it Jesus Christ which the Bible tells us or is it being built on something else.

If we build on any other foundation that Jesus Christ it will fail.

We have it all wrong because we do not make room for Jesus, sadly for many people and ministries Jesus is not in the picture, maybe only an afterthought, the Bible clearly says in **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**, Paul speaking to the Corinthian church, *"¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each*



one should build with care. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames."

Our work will be tested

One day everything we have done in this life will be tested with fire and anything that was not build on the foundation which is Jesus Christ will be burned up and we will suffer loss, but anything built on the Rock which is Jesus Christ, will be shown for what it is, and we will receive a reward but if what we built burns up, we will suffer loss but will be saved even through the flames.

Please note this judgement is for believers not for unbelievers. When we die the Bible says we are judged,

Hebrews 9:27 *"²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,"*
Romans 14:10^b-12 *"^{10b} For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. ¹¹ It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God." ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God."*

Every person who is alive and who has ever lived or will live, everyone will die and after they die, immediately you will be judged! You will stand before God, and you will be judged for whether you accepted to be reconciled to Him through His only Son, Jesus Christ – did you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour or not!

You might say yes, I did but the Bible says that the angels will search for your name in the Book called the Lambs Book of Life where every person who has accepted Jesus Christ will have their name written in this Book – **Revelation 21:27**.

If a search is made and your name is found in the Lambs Book of Life you will enter Heaven and live with God for all eternity, but if it is not found in the Lambs Book of Life, you will be cast into Hell for ever and ever you will live in a place separated from God and His love.

This judgement spoken of in our passage is for believers, once you have entered into God rest what you did for Him here on earth will be judge to determine it worth and if your life's work withstand the fire you will receive a reward but if it does not you will still be saved from the fires of Hell but you will not receive a reward, anything not built on the Rock on the Foundation of Jesus Christ will be exposed for what it is, a selfish admission devoid of God.

Where is your treasure?

My second question is where is your treasure?

What do you value in your life, what has got your focus? Are you more concerned with this life, what you will eat, what you will drink, what you will wear, buy, or do. Are you more concerned with life that God.

My question today is, are your thought and desires on anything other than God an His kingdom, because Jesus Christ clearly say where you treasure is, there your heart is too.



Sadly, we call this an idol, and many people have idols in their lives which might not be a physical object or statue but are just as important and powerful in their effect on your lives, especially our Christian walk.

For some people it is sport, or others its fashion, beauty, cars, women, pleasant things, money, their job, their education, etcetera, what has your heart, your focus, what is your treasure.

Only you can answer this and be honest is God you treasure is something else, I God your source or is money, you know, we want to build a new church, we want to do something, do we go to God, or do we first look at our finances or budget? Oh no we cannot do this outreach because we do not have money, or God if you want me to do this outreach I believe and ask you to provide the finances.

Let's me show your heart and where you treasure is, and I am not going to ask you to raise your hands but let me ask you a question but answer it in your heart, who here is a faithful tither, you faithfully give 10% of your income to God every month?

Only you can answer that question but by answering it your also know what your treasure is?

God does not need your money, He wants your obedience, He want you to demonstrate where your treasure is, Matthew 6:24, which we read says,

the Bible clearly says " *24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*

You cannot serve God and money, you either serve Him or money and the determining fact is, are you a give or not?

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is FREE, you do not have to pay me to be here, but someone need to pay for the planning, transportation, food, someone gave money for me to come to Malawi, it cost money to take the Gospel to the World.

Your pastor should not have a job to earn income to live, you the church should supply his needs. He has a family and it cost money for his house, for food and for his and his family's needs, his children also need to go to school, so we need to give to the Kingdom so that he can be the pastor who God called him to be, because he is busy working to earn a living so that the can take care of his family and then in his spare time take care of the church.

I know right now, you have calculated what 10% of your take home salary is and you are saying I cannot afford to give that, I say you cannot afford not to give because of the blessing it has provided in my life.

It is the responsibility of each church to look after their pastors' needs and the pastor to work for God by helping meet the spiritual needs of the people, preparing sermons for the services in the week. Helping the widows and orphans, visiting the church families, and serving them spiritually.

When you seek first God's Kingdom then all the provision is release, not before, see **Matthew 6:24-34**, in v33 it says, "...Seek first the kingdom of God and all these other things will be added to you...", what other things, your clothing, your food etcetera.



2 Corinthians 9:6-12, says *"⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every clever work. ⁹ As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. ¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"*

From this passage we can see:

What you received is directly proportional to what you give.

God is a cheerful giver, and he want you to be one too.

Each one must give as they have decided in their own heart. You decide what to give.

Give with the right attitude.

God can supply you needs.

He will enrich you to be a greater giver.

People will praise God because of your giving

Your giving is a gift to the church.

How to Build

So, as I close his message today.

We need to build on the right foundation, which is Jesus Christ, everything else is sinking sand but Jesus is the ROCK.

We need to make sure our treasure, our focus is GOD and not money or other things and that giving is the way we show where our treasure is, remember the only thing you can take with you when you die are souls and your work you did for Jesus Christ on earth, you cannot take your car, houses, cloths, money or anything else except other people who are saved and what you did for God and His Kingdom while you here on earth.

You need to build in such a way to have/get a reward, the answer is to build on the Foundation which is Jesus Christ. Make sure that whatever you do from today on, make sure everything you do, is done with the correct motives and built on the foundation which is Jesus Christ and is done for the Kingdom of God and one of these is to take care of your family and make sure they are saved and see an example of Jesus in their lives.

Make sure that you start to become a giver, start to tithe, start to give things, like food, your time, a lift, basically anything good you do to other people to bless them expecting nothing in return, expecting no reward or payment from them, doing it for God and His Kingdom and soon you will have stored up treasures in heaven that will last an eternity.



Conclusion

I know this is a tough message today, many of you are still wondering how you are going to tithe or what you need to do, I just say relax, go to God, repent of dead works and ask Him to help you be a faithful giver, ask Him to help you be the father/mother your children need to see God in you and lead them by example in the ways of God.

And then tell God that from today you will build on the Rock which is Jesus Christ.

Let's pray...

If you want to pray this prayer with me then stand and we can pray together and dedicate ourselves to Him a fresh.

Let us pray

- Repent of dead works
- Repent of serving money
- Help me be a faithful giver
- Supply my needs according to Matthew 6:25-34
- Ask God to be a model for your children and family to follow
- Commit to building on the Rock which is Jesus Christ