GOD’S SOLID FOUNDATION

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”

Avoid Godless Chatter

2 Timothy 2:16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

1 Timothy 6:20&21 Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith. Grace be with you all.

“Godless chatter” “signifies empty discussion, discussion on useless subjects.” (Vines) People who spend their time discussing useless subjects become “more and more ungodly.” Focus your conversations on what the Word of God clearly teaches.

2 Timothy 2:17&18 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

Discussion of useless subjects causes gangrene (spreading death) in the body. The ideas of the Gnostics is mentioned in I Timothy 6:20 and meaningless talk about the Law is mentioned in I Timothy 1:5-11. Hymenaeus is mentioned as one who rejected his conscience in I Timothy 1:19&20. Philetus is not mentioned elsewhere in the Bible.

What Hymenaeus and Philetus were teaching may have been the gnostic idea that the resurrection was a spiritual event that happened at baptism and was thus already past, not the future actual physical resurrection of the body which made no sense to those involved in gnostic teaching, or in the Greek culture for that matter, who saw the body as evil and saw no reason to resurrect it.

God’s Solid Foundation

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wicked ness.”

God’s solid foundation stands firm” is more literally “the firm foundation of God stands” as in the NASB. The word translated “firm” means solid or hard. God’s truth is not shaken by error.

I Corinthians 3:10&11 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. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Christ Jesus.

Romans 15:20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation.

I Corinthians 15:1&2 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

I Corinthians 15:3&4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Romans 1:16&17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

“Sealed with this inscription” is literally “having this seal.” A seal was a piece of wax with an emblem that could contain writing identifying the owner of the item sealed. A seal was placed on the stone of Jesus tomb by the Roman soldiers.

Ephesians 1:13&14 And you were also included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory.

“The Lord Knows Those Who Are His”

This could mean, God is the one who knows who is really saved. We do not. There are times when it seems obvious that someone is or is not, but at other times it is not so clear. The parable of the wheat and the tares in Matthew thirteen makes it obvious that there will be people professing to be followers of Christ who really are not and that they will become obvious only when the fruit of their lives is really seen. But it is more likely that it refers to relationship as in the following verses.

John 10:14&15 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

I Corinthians 8:3 But whoever loves God is known by God.

Matthew 7:15-23 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves…Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ ”

“Everyone Who Confesses the Name of the Lord Must Turn Away from Wickedness”

“Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord” is literally “everyone who names the name of the Lord.” The meaning seems to be everyone who names himself as a Christian.

Translations are almost evenly split between translating the last part of the second part of the writing on the seal as “everyone must turn away” or “let everyone turn away” from wickedness.

Scripture is very clear that being born again will change a person. In John 3:8 Jesus said: “The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

But Scripture is also very clear that obedience is a choice. Romans 6:12 says, “Therefore do not let sin reign in you mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.”

And Hebrews 12:8 adds, “If you are not disciplined – and everyone undergoes discipline – then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.”

Things to Remember

Avoid discussion on useless topics, it leads to ungodliness. Focus on what the Word of God clearly says is true.

God’s solid foundation stands, regardless of those who teach error.

The foundation of the Christian life is Jesus and the teaching of the Gospel: “that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

The Gospel brings salvation to everyone who believes.

God knows those who are His, we have a personal relationship with our Creator.

A salvation that doesn’t change a person is not real, but victory is not automatic, we still must choose to obey.