

Foundations of the Faith – Knowing for Living

I. Introduction

“And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.” (John 17:3)

“It is in this way that our understanding of Christian doctrine shapes Christian life. It even begins to influence our unconscious bearing and our responses to all kinds of situations. Christian doctrines are life-shaping. They show us the God we worship, and illuminate our understanding of his Sons’s love and his Spirit’s work. They form the foundation of the Christian life.” -- Sinclair Ferguson, Know Your Christian Life

The questions: Is a study like this really practical and if so, how? How will these truths be applied in my life and/or in the life of the church?

II. Goals of a class like this

- A. The glory of God
- B. Equipping the saints for further service
- C. Encouragement in evangelism and apologetics

III. Reasons for a class like this

- A. The need for a stronger foundation and framework
 - The “do you not know” of Paul
- B. The reality that fruitful and productive Christian living is, in many ways, based upon understanding and knowledge of the truth
 - 1. This is demonstrated in the teaching of the Lord Jesus
 - a. The Sermon on the Mount
 - b. Matthew 24-25; Mark 13 and Luke 22:5-36
 - c. The upper room discourses (John 13-17)
 - the doctrine of the Trinity (14:7, 9, 10, 16-17; 16:15)
 - the glory of God (13:31-32; 17:1, 24)

2. This is demonstrated in the life and teaching of teaching of the Apostle Paul

a. 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

b. *“I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)*

c. Philippians 2:3-11

d. Ephesians 5:25-33

IV. Further practical benefits of a study like this

A. Helps meet the demands related to personal witness

B. Prepares us further to give a reason for the hope that is in us (I Peter 3:15)

C. Used by the Lord in the care of our souls

N.B.: Much of this outline follows material from *The Christian Life* by Sinclair Ferguson

Next week: Revelation, Scripture and Authority

Passages to consider: 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 10:35; Matthew 4:1-11