

“ROOTED AND GROUNDED”

Lesson 2 ☐ For week ending January 10, 2015

The life of a true follower of Jesus Christ will be characterized by a stability that is the result of a strong foundation. We must know the One in whom we have believed! Our stability is found in a personal relationship with Jesus, the Living Word! The more we allow the Word of God to take root in our lives, the stronger we will be when we are tested by the trials of life.

KEY TEXT: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” (Ephesians 3:17-19).

1. Our life in the kingdom of God starts with a seed that is planted in our hearts. If nurtured properly, that seed has potential to grow just like a tree that puts down deep roots and shoots out great branches. Expand upon this concept as you study the following passages (Mark 4:30-32; Psalms 1:1-3).

• **Mark 4:30-32**

30 Then He said, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it?”

31 It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth;

32 but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.

• **Psalms 1:1-3**

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

2. In order for the seed of God’s Word to take root, it must first be received into a heart that is open and willing to allow that seed to penetrate even into the deep places (James 1:21). Read and discuss Jesus’ parable in Luke 8:10-15. The word keep in this passage means to hold down or to hold fast. Figuratively it means to keep in memory. Compare this to I Corinthians 15:1,2. Discuss the importance of being patient as we wait on the Word to be formed in us (Hebrews 10:35,36).

• **James 1:21**

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

• **Luke 8:10-15**

10 And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’”

11 “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

14 Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are

choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

• **I Corinthians 15:1-2**

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

• **Hebrews 10:35-36**

35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.

3. The Apostle Paul set an example for us of what it means to hold fast to the Word of God. He had complete confidence in the One that He served and instructed Timothy to do the same (II Timothy 1:8-14). The word keep in verse 14 means to watch or for example be on guard. Compare this to II Peter 3:15-18. What does Peter warn us to guard against?

• **II Timothy 1:8-14**

8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God,

9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

13 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

• **II Peter 3:15-18**

15 And consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,

16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;

18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

4. The goal is to become so rooted in our love for Jesus and His Word that nothing can move us (Proverbs 12:3; I Corinthians 15:55-58). Romans 8:35-39 describes the testimony of those who have become rooted and grounded in Christ.

• **Proverbs 12:3**

3 A man is not established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous cannot be moved.

• **I Corinthians 15:55-58**

55 O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

• **Romans 8:35-39**

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.