

Journey With Hope Series

Building Your Life On A Sure Foundation

1 Peter 2:4-10

Wednesday, March 19, 2003 • Dr. David McKinley

Baptism

Video: President George Bush

Dr. McKinley: < 26 > [soft background music] As We come into this place tonight we come standing on the seam of history as though it were. We realize that the future is going to be different and we realize that we have been called at this hour and in this day as a nation to embrace a great responsibility. It is a day and an hour in which our nation needs to stand together in unity and faith and courage and in prayer and tonight as we come together we come wanting to provide that support from the heart and the life of this place, the people known as Prestonwood, the people of America, for the people of our nation, for our leaders, for our soldiers and for all of those who share in this great responsibility in this day. The task that we face tonight is one that has come to us before and surely it will come to us again at some time in the future. But as we are here in this time of pause, awaiting a countdown and awaiting what will indeed be a moment of destiny in human history it's so important that we would come, that we would gather, that we would pray. And so tonight as we come to this place we're going to spend an extended time of prayer right now for our nation, for our leaders, for our soldiers. We are very well aware of the fact that there is at least the possibility that our president could at any moment tonight address the nation. While we've had no notice of that as of this moment I do want you to know that we are prepared and should he bring an address that we will immediately interrupt what we're doing and we will collectively witness that address together in this service tonight. As I was thinking about this time of prayer I came across a statement that was made on January 8, 1951. At that time President Harry S. Truman stood before a nation and said these words.

*"Let us all stand together as Americans, let us stand together with all men everywhere who believe in human liberty. Peace is precious to us. It is a way of life we strive for with all the strength and wisdom we possess. But more precious than peace are freedom and justice. We will fight, if fight we must to keep our freedom and to prevent justice from being destroyed. These are the things that give meaning to our lives and which we acknowledge to be greater than ourselves. This is our cause,*

*peace, freedom, justice; we will pursue this cause with determination and humility asking divine guidance that in all we do we may follow the will of God."*

I believe that needs to be the heart of this church and the heart of our nation tonight. And so what we're going to do over these next few minutes is that we are simply going to enter into a season of prayer. And we're going to first pray for our leaders. I would ask that from your heart you simply begin to echo a personal word of prayer to the Lord but to direct your eyes to the screens as we will begin to see and to be reminded of the life and of the faith of those who are leading us in this day. And then after we've prayed for our leaders tonight we're going to pray for soldiers. And then after we've prayed for soldiers we're gonna pray for families. I don't know who is here tonight but it is very possible that there are some among us who have a family member, a dear friend who have already been deployed or about to be deployed to be a part of this conflict. And so in just a few minutes I will ask those of you who have family, friends and love ones to stand and we're going to have a special time of prayer for you tonight. But right now lets just begin this season of prayer by praying for our leaders, our leadership in this great battle and pray for God's grace and strength, wisdom and courage in each of their lives.

Video

Prayer...

Dr. Graham: [< 163 >](#) We know that our nations future and our hope is not in ourselves, our own strength, even the military might of our great American forces. But our strength is in the Lord and our hope is in Him and rather than arrogance, we see dependence upon God and in this time of national honor may it also be a time of national humility and spiritual brokenness and I'm asking that a... across America that God would pour out His spirit upon His people that we would know revival in our churches and spiritual awakening across this great land. That we would engage the enemy of our souls, Satan himself who is the ultimate terror...a...terrorist and adversary and that we would advance the kingdom of God. We pray for our missionaries a... who are evangelizing around the world at this time and we know that many of these a... can be in harms way and we ask God's protection a... we pray for our missionaries. There are chaplains serving our armed forces that are at the battle lines and in the field of conflict and they are ministering God's grace and comfort to our soldiers and many of these chaplains are sharing faith and soldiers and sailors and marines and air corp are coming to Christ at an unprecedented race and we're so thankful for that. This is not a time for fear; it is a time for faith. It's not a time for panic; it's a time for prayer. Philippians chapter 4, verses 6 and 7:

*'Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 'and the peace of God, which passes...surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and*

*minds through Christ Jesus.*

Because we want to humble ourselves before the Lord in dependence and faith a, if it's possible, I wanna ask each member a..., or each person here tonight in our church to get on your knees, all of us on our knees together. If it's impossible physically for you to do that then just remain seated, but we want to get on our knees and to pray together.

[pause]

You are the great God of history and destiny. You are our God, oh Lord and through Jesus Christ our Savior, our Redeemer and Friend we come before You, we bow our lives in your presence. By Your Spirit we welcome Your presence in this place. For Your comfort and strength, for the courage and the resolve that we need we ask Your grace and help and just as we have interceded for our leaders, our soldiers, our families now Lord we come each one of us on our knees before you individually to say Lord, it's me, it's me standing in the need of prayer and we are reminded of the urgency and the emergency of these days just how desperately each one of us needs you. We repent of our sins personally and individually. We turn from our arrogance to dependence upon You. We turn from our pride and we ask You, oh God, that You would bring us ever closer to You that we would be ever faithful unto You, that our lips and our lives will praise You to the ends of the earth. God use each one and use us as a church in these days to be comforters and strengtheners of friends all around us who do not have or know the hope that we share. We ask You oh God that You would make us ever faithful in the task of witnessing and sharing our faith and oh God as we pray for our nation now we thank You in advance for the victory and for the promise of Your protection for all of those who are facing fear we ask for Your amazing and all surpassing peace. Give us a confidence and a courageous resolve to be Your people in these days and on bended knee we pray together the words that our Lord taught us to pray.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Special music by youth ministry.

[Dr. McKinley, message *Building Your Life On a Sure Foundation* ] < 313 >

It was Jesus who said:

*"Greater love has no man than this than to lay down his life for his friends."*

And the willingness to show love and the sacrifice of life is the ultimate expression and of course our Lord Jesus did that on the cross and a... I don't mind telling you having my own son up here tonight being a part of this is, has been just a wonderful reminder of God's great grace and love

in my life. In just a few weeks he will be 17 years of age and I have to tell you as a dad, as you look at what's happening in the world you just want it all to get over very quickly and yet I realize for others of you here tonight there's a sense of which you are walking through this day right now with someone that you love and I just really want to assure you that in these days one of the things that we have committed, our pastor has committed, is that we are going to pray for our families and for all of those who are faced a, with a personal touch through this conflict. In fact this weekend we're gonna do a tremendous effort to try to get the names of family members and of friends who are serving around the world in various aspects of the armed forces and we're gonna create a wall of prayer to just be reminded in these days of the need to pray for them and to share and to uphold them in the love of Christ and so a..., I trust that a..., we'll be able to do that and you'll help us to do that and it'll be something that will make a tremendous difference in these days. This is clearly one of the most unusual and one of the most unstable times that I've ever know in my lifetime and a... it has been an interesting thing to see the events that we have walked through unfold in recent days. There are a lot of things that are happening in the world around us that we have no control over and yet the fact of the matter is, is that while we do not have control we know the One who holds the destiny of men and of nations and we are so thankful for the confidence that we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a time of prayer, it is a time of seeking, it's a time of humility and a time of calling upon the name of the Lord. But most importantly for us it is a time of being true to the mission and to the message of Jesus Christ in this hour, in this generation in the world. And so tonight I wanna take a few minutes recognizing where we are and all that's happening around us and I wanna just talk to you about *Building Your Life On A Sure Foundation*. *Building Your Life On A Sure Foundation*, I thought about different directions that I could go with my message tonight but have decided to stay right where we are in our text in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter chapter 2 and if you have a Bible I want you to open it there because we're making our way through the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter and here in chapter 2 Peter gives us an incredible word picture to help us to understand who Christ is and what Christ came to do for us. And so I want us to read together beginning in 2<sup>nd</sup>...in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, did I say 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter? 1<sup>st</sup> Peter chapter 2 and beginning in verse 4, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter chapter 2 and verse 4. The Scripture says:

<sup>4</sup>*Coming to Him...*

That is to Jesus.

*...as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, <sup>5</sup>you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to ...*

What does it say?

...to shame." <sup>7</sup>Therefore, to you who believe He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," <sup>8</sup>and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup>who once were not a people but are now the people of God, and who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Here in this passage of Scripture Peter describes Jesus as being a living stone as being the cornerstone, as being the rock, being the foundation and a word picture is vivid because it gives us a, a visual image of something that is being described, something that is being presented and so many times in the Scripture the Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as a rock, as a solid foundation and so I believe that as we start with that word picture tonight and as we read these opening comments that one of the truths that needs to a, just get down into our hearts tonight and needs to create a sense of settling and of strengthening for us tonight is simply this, that **KNOWING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS CHRIST BRINGS SECURITY IN LIFE.** Knowing the truth about Jesus Christ brings security in life. That's what he says here, you are coming to Him as a living stone rejected by men but indeed He is precious to God. And the Bible is the book of God that has been written to us, to reveal to us the person and the work of Jesus Christ. All of the Bible is about Jesus, from beginning to end and in so many different word pictures and imageries in prophecies and in teachings the Bible is giving to us the understanding of who Christ is, God wants you to know the truth about Jesus because the truth about Jesus Christ will bring security to your life. Now what does the Bible mean when it says that He is a living stone, a living stone? We don't think of rocks as being living things, we think of rocks as just being material. We've had of a pet rock, heh, but what's a living stone? Well, the only way that we can understand this is to go back and to see where this imagery is woven through Scripture. So keep your hand there in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter chapter 4 and turn back to the book of Exodus chapter 17, the book of Exodus, chapter 17, because I want us to read together and to see together what the Bible tells us about this living stone. Here in the book of Exodus we have Moses leading God's people, Israel, out of bondage in Egypt and along the way there came an event that occurred that is described here and this is what it says, it says:

<sup>1</sup>Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the Lord and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>Therefore the people contended with Moses,...

That is they got angry, disgusted, frustrated. You know what it's like if you've ever been on a trip with a bunch of people and somebody's thirsty and somebody's hungry and you know it can, traveling together can be a very a..., well it can be a very difficult experience. It'll definitely test

your relationship. But it says they came to this place and they contended with Moses and they said:

*...“Give us water, that we may drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you contend with me and why do you tempt the Lord?” <sup>3</sup>And the people thirsted there for water, and the people murmured against Moses. And he said “Why is it that you’ve brought us up out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”*

We’re gonna die out here Moses!

*<sup>4</sup>And Moses cried to the Lord..*

Verse 4.

*...saying, “What shall I do with this people? They are ready to stone me!” <sup>5</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, “Go before the people and take with you some of the elders and take in your hand the rod which you stuck in the river and go. <sup>6</sup>And behold, I will stand before you there on the rock of Horab and you shall strike the rock and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

God said you go and strike the rock and out of that rock’s gonna come water and surely enough according to the commandment of God, a rock that was dead, that was dry, that was lifeless burst forth with water and it was a living stone. We read the same thing again in the book of Numbers chapter 20, I’m not going to read that passage for you but simply to say to you that on another occasion we read about that happening with the children of Is...Israel. But if you go back again to the New Testament to 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 10 and verse 4 you get an explanation and, and an understanding of all of these things. Listen to what the Scripture says, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, chapter 10 actually I’m gonna begin reading in v...verse 1:

*<sup>1</sup>Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>they all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and they all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of the spiritual Rock, that Rock followed them,...*

That Rock was who?

*...Christ.*

We don’t have to wonder about this living stone. Even back in the Old Testament when God was making water come out of rocks to prove the sufficiency that He had for people, He was demonstrating to them the all sufficient Christ and Jesus is the Rock of life, He is the Living Stone. But not only is He the Living Stone, in this same passage that we’re reading we read about the fact that He is the sure and the firm foundation. For the Bible goes on to say down in verse 6:

*"Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect and precious and he who believes in Him will by no means be put to shame."*

There is security in Jesus. When you know the truth about Jesus, when you embrace the truth of Christ in your life you're not gonna be ashamed, you are going to be secure in life regardless of what happens, because strength and sufficiency and security are all found in a person and His name is Jesus. And tonight we need to turn our eyes from the things of this world and turn our eyes upon Jesus, the Living Stone, the Chief Cornerstone and we need to remember, living in this day and in this hour we will never be put to shame if we know and believe and live the truth about Jesus Christ. You see the Scripture describes the wonder of this Christ and what He has come to do and Jesus is the material ingredient for real life. He is the foundation and you can build your life on Him. Matthew chapter 7, the conclusion of *The Sermon On The Mount*, pastor referred to this on Sunday, there's the beautiful parable, the story that Jesus told about 2 men who built a house. One man a foolish man on the sand, the other man a wise man built his house on the rock and when the winds and the rains and the floods came and beat against that house one of them fell because it didn't have a sure foundation. But the other one built on a rock stood because it had a sure foundation. What is the rock for life? 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 3, verse 11:

*No other foundation can anyone lay except that which is already laid, which is Christ Jesus.*

Knowing the truth about Jesus will bring security in your life and He is the material ingredient for real life. That's why the Bible says, nor is there salvation in any other for there is no other name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved. The truth is, is that Jesus is the real thing and Jesus alone is the real thing and therefore tonight we can build our lives on a sure foundation because knowing the truth about Christ brings security in life. But there's something else that Peter tells us here tonight and that is that not only knowing the truth about Jesus brings security ov...in life but **UNDERSTANDING YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST BRINGS SIGNIFICANCE TO YOUR LIFE**. God wants to do something in and through you and when you understand who you are and what you are in Christ then you begin to be amazed at what God can do to make your life significant, meaningful, purposeful. You see what it says in verse 5, back in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter chapter 2? It says in verse 5:

*You also, as living stones...*

Jesus is the Living Stone, but now listen to this, you're a living stone. Now the identity of Christ become your identity and you also as living stones are being built up, a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. The Bible says that your identity and my identity is that now we are living stones. We were dead but now we have life. We were thirsty and hungry but now we hunger and thirst for righteousness because the power of the Living Christ in us has changed us from the inside out. But now who are these living

stones that are being built up into a spiritual house? Well don't take my word for it let's just go back and see what the Bible teaches. Look in Matthew chapter 16, Matthew chapter 16, because right here we will identify who the stones are being built up into the living stone, the holy priesthood, this house, this spiritual house of God. Matthew chapter 16 and we begin our reading. Well, let me just summarize. Jesus was with His disciples, they were in a place called Caesarea Philippi, it is a place at the fountainhead of the, of the Jordan River, it is a place where there are many rocks and where there are spr...streams and springs as though it were there. And Jesus looked around and looked at all of the things that were there and He said to Peter, He said Peter, to all the disciples:

*"Who do men say that I...am?"*

And Peter was the one who responded and he said in verse 16:

*<sup>16</sup>... "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I say to you that you are Peter,...*

Which is the name "petra" that means stone.

*...and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it."*

Who are the living stones being built up into a spiritual house? It is the church of Jesus Christ and once we have been saved and born into the family of God, once we've received the life of Christ, not only do we have security because we know His truth but we now have significance as members of His family and as a part of His church. We are a people in Christ for His glory and for His purpose. That's why it's so important to be connected to and involved in the life and the ministry of the church, a local church. Yes we're a part of the eternal, spiritual house that is being built but throughout the Bible the pattern is the pattern of churches and communities where believers come together to worship God and to do good works and to give testimony to Jesus Christ and that's why we exist that we might be built up as living stones into a spiritual house as the church of Jesus Christ.

William Barkley in his commentary says this:

*"So long as a brick lies by it's self it is useless. It only becomes of use when it is built into a building and that's why it is made and it is in being built into a building that it realizes it's function and it's reason for existence."*

We don't wanna just see bricks lay around. Yes, I'm a living stone, but God's plan is for these living stones to be built up into a spiritual house. And the reason that being connected together in faith and life and love and ministry is that we might fulfill the significance of Jesus



Christ for us. We can't stand alone in these days and times in which we're living. We need the church of Jesus Christ. That's why we need to pray for one another and minister to one another and serve one another. That's why God has put us together. Again let's look at one other passage of Scripture, Ephesians chapter 2, beginning in verse 19. You need to have this passage marked as well, Ephesians chapter 2 and verse 19. I want us to see what the Scripture says here, together, about the church. It says here:

*<sup>19</sup>Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and the members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief...*

What?

*...cornerstone, <sup>21</sup>in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup>in whom you are being built together for a habitation of God by the Spirit.*

God inhabits this place. God inhabits these people and the significance of our life and lives as Christians is that we are a part of a community of faith known as the church of Jesus Christ. Christianity is community, a community of love, of faith and of care. And so we have great value and are to receive great honor from one another because of the significance of who we are and what we are as the church of the living God. So number 1, knowing the truth about Jesus Christ brings security in life. < turn tape > Number 2 understanding your identity in Christ brings significance to your life and ladies and gentlemen Jesus is building His church today, in this hour, in this moment in history for His purpose and listen to me. The gates of Hell will not prevail against it.

But there's a third thing we need to see and that is that **BUILDING YOUR LIFE ON CHRIST AND CHRIST ALONE WILL CAUSE OTHERS TO STUMBLE**. What brings security and significance to me will bring division and disruption and ultimately a sense of stumbling in the world around. While we proclaim and embrace the truth, the truth of Christ causes others to stumble. And the reality is, is to ever establish a baseline of truth is to also provide a measure of error and in the world of which we're living today if we are true to Jesus we are gonna struggle with those who are outside of Christ and who stumble on this stone. That's why the Bible says in verse 7:

*..."The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone."*

Verse 7 also says:

*...to you who believe, He...*

That is Jesus.

*... is precious; but to those who are disobedient,...*

*...He is a stumbling stone...*

And a wonderful book recently written by Dr. Joe Stoll, who is the President of The Moody Bible Institute, he makes this statement. He said:

*"Let's face it, while not exclusive in the wideness of His mercy, Jesus is exclusive in His claim that He is the only solution for our sin problem and the only way to God, and that indeed He is God. Jesus is the central issue that se...separates me from the Hindus, Muslims, Jews, New Age adherents and the advocates of any form of religion. His claims are unique."*

That's something we have to recognize, because the day and the hour in which we are living we are engaged in a war, day by day, a spiritual conflict between light and truth and darkness and deception and we stand with the message of Jesus Christ. Now there are some today who would want to water down and play down this message and it's distinctiveness. In fact in the same book that I just read to you from Dr. Stoll quotes a prominent religious figure, a bishop in the United Methodist Church and this is what he said recently in a collective gathering, he said:

*"I'm always fearful when we in the Christian community move beyond the rightful claim that Jesus is decisive for us to the presupposition that none Christians are outside God's plan of salvation."*

That smacks of a kind of non-Jesus like arrogance. Hum! I don't know what Bible he's reading from, but Jesus didn't leave us any options. The Bible says the stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone and Jesus and Jesus alone is the basis of strength and of security in life. You see, our world is not like anyone who claims to know the truth. Our world wants to remove truth. Our world wants every man's opinion to be equal, all religions to be the same, all things to be, as though it were, kept in balance. But Jesus Christ upsets all of that because from beginning to end the claim of the Bible is that Christ and Christ alone is the only way by which we may be saved. And therefore the message that we embrace and that we proclaim is Christ and Christ alone. Dr. Bill Bright recently said:

*"The reality of our position has never been more plain. Generally secu...secular news media allow the promotion of almost any religion. It is fashionable to speak of Buddha, Mohammad, Confucius, but the name of Jesus too often is person-non-grade. One can nearly say anything demeaning of a Christian."*

*And so while it is true tonight that we have the truth that brings security in Christ and we understand and identity that brings significance in Christ, we must understand that to claim to know Christ and to put faith in Christ alone is going to cause others to stumble.*

But that brings me to the last point tonight and that is that while all of this is true the Bible says at the end of verse 8:

*...they stumble being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. But you...*

He comes back and talks about us now.

*...But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. His own special people that you may...*

What is the next word?

*...that you may proclaim...*

That you may tell. That you may declare.

*...the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

What is this saying? **ALLOWING CHRIST TO WORK IN US AND THROUGH US WILL BRING SALVATION TO OTHERS.** When the Christ who is alive is living in me and living in you and when He's building us up together as a spiritual habitation and we become a house filled with the presence of God and a people who demonstrate the love and the light of Christ to the world, God will use us to be the instrument of salvation to many. And that is our mission and that is our call and that is the value that God has placed upon us. Hear me tonight! Just as the sell of any piece of property requires an appraisal to determine value, God has determined your value and here it is. God is saying you're a chosen generation, you're a royal priesthood, you're a holy nation, you are the people of My own choosing. Ladies and gentlemen, tonight never loose sight of the value of who you are in Christ and of the vision of what He has called you to do in this world. This is the hour for the church of Christ to stand and to proclaim the message of salvation in Christ and Christ alone and what God starts He finishes. That's why Jesus said the gates of Hell will not prevail against My church. We don't have to build the church, Jesus is building the church. Thank God this church has a big dose of the power of Jesus Christ in it. Let's never take that for granted. Let's never fail to be grateful for the conviction and the testimony and the transformation of lives that have been seen in this place, but also how much more we are stewards of the mysteries of His grace to peoples all around the world. If you'll permit me one final time Joe Stoll says this:

*"Beware, beware of the comfortable confines of disconnected Christianity, of small groups, choirs, committees and the business of His work in church work. His work is to take the light of the world to our world. Don't be confused. Our connecting identity is that we are Jesus' people who intentionally engage the world with the reality of His love and truth."*

That's why we're here. That's what this hour is about and whatever may come in the tide of the morning and in the turn of history and in the destiny of this hour in humanity we are to live to be true to the mission

and the message of Jesus Christ, that the purpose of God may be fulfilled in and through us in this generation. And beginning at this point, talking about proclaiming His marvelous life Peter turns the corner in his book and begins to talk to us about how we are to shine and how we are to live and what we are to be for Jesus Christ and that's where we'll pick up next week.

Do you know this sure foundation in your life? Do you know Jesus Christ? Is it any wonder that the hymn writer wrote?

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Have laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can we say than to you we have said,  
Then to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

We need the refuge and the security that is in Christ and I'm telling you tonight if I didn't know Jesus Christ I wouldn't go home and go to bed tonight until I got that settled in my heart and life. And tonight if you've never received the gift of eternal life, of forgiveness of sins, of knowing what it is to have your life built on the foundation of Jesus Christ I would simply encourage you in your heart to say dear Lord Jesus come into my heart, Jesus there's much I don't know and understand but what I know about You, I give myself to You, I ask You to take control of my life, I ask You to make me the man, make me the woman that You want me to be and Lord I wanna live my life connected to You, fulfilling Your purpose, built on You as a firm foundation, I wanna know that I'm goin to heaven when I die and Lord I want my life to matter here and now today. If you've never done that I wanna encourage you to do that tonight.