



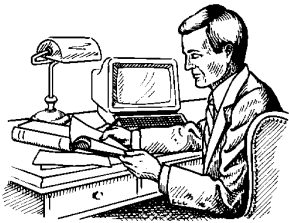
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From Where I Sit . . .

“The Need For Fundamentals”

Hebrews 5:12a NKJV) ¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God;

2 Peter 1:12-13 (NKJV) ¹²For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

There are several kinds of students in the typical congregation of the Lord’s Church. There are some who have never been exposed to an in-depth study of basic Bible teachings and thus they are not fully aware of why we do the things that we do. There are others who once learned many of these sacred truths but later in life feel a need for a refresher course to sharpen our ability to teach others. There are some who continue to want to reexamine things they formerly learned to be truth to reaffirm that what they are doing is right. There might be some who never committed Bible passages to memory and yet fully understood what they were doing but don’t exactly know where to go in the Bible to find these things talked about.

All of the above have one thing in common. Peter wrote of the desire to remind his readers of truths that he knew they had learned and were established in. He didn’t want to be negligent to remind them of these important truths. We all need to stay in touch with the foundational truths that separate us from a world outside of Christ.

There are some basic Bible teachings that are foundational or “fundamental” to New Testament Christianity. Paul writes of these as being the “first principles of the oracles of God.” Whether we want to admit it or not, if a generation drifts away from foundational truths, the complete identity of the church can be changed. Picture the Bible as an architect’s blueprint for a house. I need to keep going back to the blueprint to be sure I haven’t added inches here or there and to be sure the building is entirely that of the designer. In houses, we have the right to change the plans and draft an amended blueprint, but in God’s Word we don’t have that liberty – not if we want it to continue to be the Lord’s original building.

In several meetings with the Elders of Broad Street the discussion centered for a time on providing a “Refresher Course” for those who would like to walk through the pages of Holy Scripture and reexamine the truths that most call “first principles.” They have decided there is a great need to provide a study format for eager learners that will be an ongoing cycle of studies. The benefit of this is that a student can either start with lesson 1 and stay with the study for 2 to 3 quarters until the cycle of lessons are completed before moving back into their regular classes. Others may prefer to start at some later point in the study but still go full circle until coming back around to that lesson. The idea is to offer a continuous “Bible Fundamentals” class where students can get on and off whenever they are ready. We want people of any age or knowledge level of the Scriptures to feel free to go through these cycles of lessons. The format will be a low-keyed, open discussion. We will search the Scriptures and allow students to find the answers to questions that might be troubling them. We hope to be ready by Fall to begin the first cycle.

. . . Terry Broome