**The Foundation That Lasts**

**Theme:** Foundational kingdom principles that stabilize and prepare believers for growth and spiritual maturity.

**Background text:** *“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men in the cunning, craftiness of deceitful plotting.”* Ephesians 4:14 NKJV {put on screen}

**Introduction:**

1. **Why is the foundation of a building important?**

*Answer* … The quality of the foundation determines the stability and endurance of the structure

*“…. you are God’s building”* I Corinthians 3:9b NKJV

1. **Satan uses the winds of deception to destabilize Christians:**
2. **Doubt →** *“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.”*

James 1:6 NKJV

1. **Changing cultural values →** *“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of the world…”*

Romans 12:2a NLT

1. **False teaching →** *“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who brought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.”* II Peter 2:1-2 NKJV {put on screen}

*“having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,”*

I Timothy 1:19 NKJV {put on screen}

1. **There are six components of “*the foundation that lasts.*”**

Hebrews 6:1-2 NKJV {put on screen}

*“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”*

**Lesson 1**

**“No More Fig Leaves”**

* Genesis 3:7,21 NKJV {put on screen}

*7 “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”*

*21 “Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.”*

1. **Repentance from Dead Works**

Repentance from dead works is the only way a person can be delivered from the kingdom of darkness.

1. Repentance ***(def)*** a firm decision to entirely turn around in the way one is thinking, believing, and living; an inward decision to go in another direction followed by an outward act to carry out that decision.
2. Repentance is not remorse or simply regretting or feeling bad about one’s actions. Judas felt bad but did not truly repent. (Matthew 27:3-5)
3. Dead works is “fig leaves” (Genesis 3:7)

***Def …*** anything you do to make yourself right with God rather than depending on what God does to make you right with Himself (Ex … doing good things for people; abstinence (stop doing bad things or religious works), Bible reading, giving, water baptism, church membership, and service, etc).

1. **Faith Toward God**
2. ***Def …***  Not looking at yourself (what you do or don’t do) but looking outside of yourself depending on God’s plan or way of salvation (being right)

*“The Lord God made tunics of skin and clothed them.”* Genesis 3:21

1. ***Def …*** Involves a personal belief in the substitutionary work of Jesus Christ- His life, death, and resurrection.
2. ***Def …*** Involves a personal response of committing one’s life to the Lordship of Jesus.
3. **Examples:**

* Radio → Cord → Outlet
* You owe a debt of $1 billion and if you work the entirety of your life, you will still be unable to pay
* Jesus at the base of the interstate--- will you slide over and let him drive?

1. Heresies, cults, and false religions believe in salvation through people, works, law, or some combination of Jesus + works or law or people (cult personality-- exaggerated devotion to charismatic, political, religious, or other leader).