

FIRST things FIRST Daily Devotionals

Devotional Guide for June 24-30, 2024

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

Monday, June 24TH “When the foundations are being destroyed”

Scripture: Psalm 11:1-7 NIV

King David expresses confidence in the Lord as His refuge. From God’s vantage points of His holy temple and His heavenly throne, His eyes survey the world, examining and judging both the righteous and the wicked, and vindicating the upright. With the attitude of defeat, the fearful do not know where to turn. They have a weak foundation of their own fear, rather than a solid foundation of faith. When we focus on the world and the victories claimed by those who embrace evil, the foundations of faith can be shaken and destroyed... if they are not firmly established in the promises of God.

Question: Has the evil in our world shaken the foundation of your faith?

Tuesday, June 25TH “He will be the sure foundation”

Scripture: Isaiah 33:2-6 NIV

The Lord rises up (is exalted) to transform the nation. When God receives His proper place in our hearts (“the fear of the Lord” v.6), then all the benefits of His character can be reproduced among His people. They will no longer be known merely as Jerusalem, but will become Zion—the city of God. Interceding for the Israelites, Isaiah prays for God to be gracious. The people need not just political relief, but also spiritual strength and deliverance in their distress. The Lord is our exalted King, and He is to be our foundation for troubled times.

Question: How do you experience God as your foundation in this world?

Wednesday, June 26TH “A firm foundation for the coming age”

Scripture: I Timothy 6:11-19 NIV

These final words of encouragement from Paul to Timothy challenge him to the most effective disciple/leader that he can be. Action verbs like “flee, pursue, fight, take hold” indicate that the active life of those who share the gospel message reflects trust in God. Material possessions fall short of God’s design for our lives. Our present life is noble, when lived as preparation for “the coming age” (v.19). Trust in the Lord—even in life’s storms—secures the foundation under us.

Question: What treasures are you laying up for the coming age?

Thursday, June 27TH

“Are you built upon rock or sand?”

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-29 NIV

The parable of the wise and foolish builders found an audience that understood this analogy in Israel... for their were numerous dry gulches in and around Israel. Those tempted to erect even temporary shelters in the flat parched stream beds might find themselves swept away in the flash floods that a sudden downpour could create. Jesus is not teaching salvation by works, because He had just stressed the need for an actual relationship with Him. Jesus commands what John the Baptist would call “fruit in keeping with repentance” (Matthew 3:8). God’s Word often speaks metaphorically of God or Christ as a “rock” (v.24). Jesus’ reference here to a rock foundation is a subtle allusion to this metaphor. Jesus thus brings the Sermon on the Mount to a conclusion by calling His disciples to choose between Himself and the religious establishment at that time. He draws a dividing line between Himself and any other foundation of life. Disciples build their lives on the bedrock of Jesus and His gospel message. Like the foolish man, the religious establishment of His day advocated a form of surface righteousness that masked a flimsy foundation of religious hypocrisy.

Question: Is the foundation of your faith on solid rock or shifting sand?

Friday, June 28TH

“I laid a foundation as a wise builder”

Scripture: I Corinthians 3:9-15 NIV

The apostle Paul described the church as a building, specifically a temple. Expanding the metaphor of the church as a building, Paul explains his responsibilities and the responsibilities of other teachers in the church as coworkers with God. As he expresses his thoughts with an analogy about a foundation, he is not speaking about the base of a private home, but rather, a monumental building—such as a large colonnaded hall or a temple. There is no other foundation for the church except the gospel of Jesus—the crucified Messiah and Savior—who rose again and offers grace, forgiveness, and salvation. Paul is not comparing a building made of gold, silver, or costly stones with a building made of wood, hay, or straw. Rather, he compares a building built on a solid foundation with one built in complete and utter disregard of the existing foundation. The former will survive a catastrophic event, while the latter will likely collapse.

Question: Who laid the foundation of faith for your life?

Sunday, June 30, 2024

10:00 am ~ a combined worship service

Matthew 7:24-29 and I Corinthians 3:9-15 NIV

Pastor’s message: **“Strong, Safe, and Secure!”**

Worship theme: **“STORM PROOF—
Securing Your Biblical Foundations”**

