

# Foundations of Faith

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# INTRODUCTION

I want to explain why a *Foundations of Faith* class is necessary and why it is important to you and your ministry. Anyone who wants to be a worker or a leader in a church should be required to go through the *Foundations of Faith* class. Actually, we encourage all believers to complete the class. It is essential for a new convert, but it is also helpful for the person who has been a believer for 20 years. It is equally important for those who come from another church to go through the Foundations of Faith class. There are reasons for that and one reason is consistency in the message that we preach.

You do not have to agree on everything. There is a whole world of things in the Bible that are not extremely important. It is amazing how people fight over unimportant issues. It is really not important what we believe about the rapture. There are many factors about Jesus' life and many theological factors that people stress as if the salvation of the world hinged on them, but it really does not. It is not important whether you believe "once saved, always saved" or if you can lose your salvation. If it were really important, the Bible would have majored on it. Those are not important issues for people who want to walk with God. The Bible does tell us the foundations of our faith. These are the foundations of the New Covenant. There are only six. If we agree on these, then we agree on the essentials and we are capable of ministering effectively.

The first reason that we encourage people to go through the Foundations of Faith class is the consistency of our message. The second reason is because reading the Word of God builds faith in you. It is mistakenly taught that just reading the Bible will bring faith. That is not true and that is not what the Bible says. You will find that the Bible says if you believe the gospel of peace, you will read the Bible and it will bring faith. If you do not believe the gospel of peace, you can read the Bible and it can make you afraid or confused. We want to help you so that whenever you are reading the Word of God, when you are praying and when you are walking with God, it will always build faith.

The third reason for going through the Foundations of Faith class is so you do not become a manipulator. People have often come to our church from other churches and they had done well as leaders in their former churches. When they came to our church they did not know how to function because we do not allow manipulation. We do not allow leaders to coerce people into serving. We do not allow people to use guilt. Guilt is not an acceptable reason to have people serving. We do not allow those kinds of tactics. In most of today's churches that is not only acceptable, but the tactic of choice. For those of you who will one day be teachers or leaders, we want you to know that there is a way to do it other than guilt. We never want you to manipulate or pressure people.

The fourth reason is that you will not be able to implement most of the messages you hear if you do not have a foundation of grace and peace. There are challenging messages about examining yourself, being honest with yourself, or being honest with God. If you do not believe in grace and peace you cannot do that. If you are not firmly established in the fact that God can love you no matter what kind of problem you have, you cannot really apply the messages you hear. You will choke on them. Therefore, we want people to have the ability to apply the messages they hear.

The fifth and most important reason is so you will be established in the love walk. Being established in the love walk means that you are firmly established in how much God loves you. It means that you understand the importance of love being the priority in the life of the believer. It means that you have the capacity to walk in love and that walking in love is more important to you than being right. Walking in love is more important than most of our priorities.

These are the five main reasons that we provide this class. However, there is one other important thing that will emerge. Everything that you believe should be evaluated by guiding principles and truths. Many times we believe things, find things in the epistles, or turn on Christian television and hear people preach something that refutes or denies everything that Jesus died to give us.

In ancient times, ships were guided into harbor with a series of lights that had to be lined up. If he saw three different lights, he was coming in sideways. The closer together he got those lights, the more sure he was that he was going to come into the harbor safely.

We have three guiding lights to determine truth. The first is the Gospel. Several years ago I was sitting in a meeting and the man that was speaking was a man I respect. As he taught, he began to emphasize how the New Testament church should focus mainly on the epistles for doctrine. When he said that, I felt the spirit of God spoke to me and said, "If you try to use the epistles as an anchor for your beliefs, you will deny the gospel. Measure everything you find in the epistles by the Gospels."

How often do we hear messages where the doctrine in those messages denies the way that Jesus related to people? Jesus did not vote to kill the woman found in adultery. Jesus did not advocate the accepting of tradition as a way to stay secure with God. There are many things that Jesus taught, did, and ways He treated people that we extract doctrine from. The epistles deny those things. We are not to look at the Gospel from a mere theological point of view, but in light of how Jesus treated and related to people.

The second guiding point that we have is the Foundations of the Faith. In other words, when I find something that I think is a revelation in the epistles, I have to look at it and ask, "Is this consistent with the way Jesus treated and handled people?" Then I have to ask if it is consistent with what the Bible identifies as the six foundations of faith.

Two guiding lights are better than one. You can have one guiding light and think that you are on track, but you will run into the rocks because you are coming in sideways. Two guiding lights are better than one, but if you can line up three guiding lights, you have no fear of shipwreck.

The third and most important guiding light is the cross of Christ. What does the Bible clearly teach happened through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus? I have often sat in meetings and heard people teach things that denied the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. They were not denying that it happened, but what the Bible says was accomplished through it.

Those are the three guiding points for believing. In this Foundations of Faith class, we help you establish some guiding points so you can take what you believe and ask if it lines up with all three of these points. We are not going to make that decision for you. That is your decision. That is why we do not labor on a lot of nonessentials. We labor on these essentials, these foundations.



I encourage you to build a personal notebook from the notes you take when you begin this class. Over time you will have your own resource library.

The two translations of the Bible that I am primarily using are the King James and New International Versions. I use the King James Version primarily because people are more familiar with it. For clarity, I sometimes use the New International Version.

# FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS

Psalms 11:3 says, *“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”* This is our cornerstone scripture for this series. Your foundation is what will make you able to stand. What you believe about healing is not going to make any difference in the real victory you have in your life. Just as what you believe about the rapture, the millennium, the anti-christ and the book of Revelation, none of these things are going to determine whether you stand or fall.

The foundation is the most important part of a building. It is not the roof. It is not the walls. It is not the hardware you use on the doors. It is the foundation. No matter how good the materials that you use above ground, if the foundation is not strong and sure the materials above ground will crack and collapse. I have told this story quite often about driving through New Orleans with a friend of mine. He took me through the neighborhood where he lived. He told me before we went into the neighborhood that the houses were built by two different contractors, using the same plans and the same materials. He said, “I want you to see if you can pick out which contractor built which house.”

As we drove through that subdivision I said, “Contractor A built that one and contractor B built this one.” The difference was that one of the contractors tried to take a short cut on his foundation. The water tables in New Orleans are extremely high. You do not take short cuts. Because he did not lay a firm foundation, they began to collapse. As the foundation began to sink, the brick began to crack. On the inside of these houses, there were cabinets that you could not open or close. They were out of square. You could not open the windows. All of these problems were because of the foundation, even though they both had the same quality of materials above ground. The foundation is the most important part of the building.

A faulty foundation is what causes people to waver and fall. If you are sick, it is not what you believe about healing that causes you to give up, but what you believe about Jesus. Many people make it through sickness without getting healed and never lose their victory. Many believers go all the way to death and never lose their victory.

It is not because of what they believe about healing, but because of what they believe about Jesus. When you go through difficult financial times, it will not be what you believe about prosperity that will determine whether you fall or stand. It will be what you believe about Jesus. What you believe about prosperity may make a difference in how you prosper, but you can prosper and fall. The Bible says that prosperity is the destruction of a fool. We try to find stability in our lives by what we put “above ground” -- healing, prosperity, prayer, etc., but we try to deal with those on a faulty foundation. The more lofty doctrines that you learn, the more sure you are to fall if your foundation is not true.

In Hebrews 5:11-14, NIV, Paul is writing to the Hebrew Christians. He says, *“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”* A spiritual infant is a person who is not familiar with the teaching of righteousness. This is the struggle of the church world is today. Most division in the church world revolves around the issue of righteousness.

Faith-righteousness is the cornerstone or capstone of the Gospel. When you build an archway, there is a stone in the center of the archway shaped a certain way. That stone determines if it is all going to hold together. If that capstone or keystone falls out, the whole doorway is going to come down. The foundations of faith provide us with our foundation. However, there is one thing that holds it together causing it to make sense, and that is faith-righteousness. Until a person is established in faith-righteousness they will never find that hub, that matrix, around which everything else fits together. Faith-righteousness is the cornerstone or the keystone of the Gospel.

Romans 1:17 says, *“For in the Gospel a righteousness from God (It is not from man. It is not from how strong man is. It is not from how hard man works.) is revealed. A righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: The righteous shall live by faith.”* “Faith righteousness from first to last” means that no matter what you are studying in the Bible or what scripture you are reading, if the way you are

interpreting that scripture points you away from faith-righteousness, you do not understand it. You have a wrong comprehension.

I once did a meeting with a man who is probably the most popular preacher in America today. I have done a few meetings with him and we are casual friends. I picked him up at the airport and we were on our way. I put him to the test. (I do this frequently if I really want to find out where somebody stands.) While riding down the road I asked if he believed in faith-righteousness. He replied, "Yes, brother. Hallelujah. Glory to God. I believe in faith-righteousness." I waited a little while and brought up faith righteousness again. He said, "Yes, brother, our righteousness is as filthy rags before God. There is no other righteousness except for faith-righteousness. Hallelujah." I let it go for 20 or 30 minutes, I did not want him to see the connection.

I made up a fictitious story and asked him for his advice. I told him that I had a woman in my church who did not attend very often. (For a preacher that is 10 points off.) Then I said, "She really does not give much." (That is another 25 points.) Then I said, "She was at church the other day. She came down to the altar and wanted me to pray for her finances." I asked him to advise me. He said, "Brother, I tell you, she need not expect God to bless her financially. She need not expect that God is going to answer her prayer. If she does not give, God is not going to help her."

That is not faith-righteousness! Righteousness qualifies you for all of the blessings and promises of God. When I say, "I have not done enough of *this* for God to answer my prayer," then that does not reveal the righteousness of God from faith to faith, from first to last. I have now departed into works-righteousness.

A woman once worked for us whose husband was one of the most unorganized, blow-money-type of guys you will ever meet. If he went to work with \$100 in his pocket, at the end of the day he would only have two or three dollars left and would not have a clue where it went. No matter how much money he left the house with, he spent it. He was actually pretty good at making money; he just did better at spending it than he did making it.

Every time they would get ahead, he would do something bazaar that would get them back in debt. At this time, they owed \$100,000 in back taxes and penalties to the IRS. Every creditor that they owed was at their door. She got into a service, got her faith built up, was encouraged, and began seeking God. God came through with the

most phenomenal financial miracle for them. The husband ran out and spent the money on something else.

I walked back in one day and she was crying. I asked what the problem was and she said, "God is not going to bless us after my husband blew the money." I told her that I did not realize that she was such a self-righteous hypocrite. She asked what I meant, and I told her that I did not know that she was into works-righteousness. "Yes, your husband made a terrible mistake. Yes, only a fool takes the blessings of God and blows it. But that does not mean that because your husband made a mistake that God cannot deliver you." She was going back to works. She was disqualifying herself from the promises of God based on failure. People try to qualify themselves in this same way for the promises of God based on performance. Neither of these reveals faith from first to last.

Romans 3:21-22 says, "*But now a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known, to which the law and the prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.*" When we think of the law, we tend to think only of the Law of Moses. The law is anything that you determine you must do to qualify for God and His blessings apart from Jesus.

In the Pentecostal churches in Puerto Rico, the mothers of the church meet women at the door with a tape measure. If the heels of the shoes are too high they break them off, or you take your shoes off. If the slit in your skirt is too high they take a stapler and staple it up. Otherwise, God cannot manifest Himself in that service -- WORKS RIGHTEOUSNESS. I believe in praying and seeking God. I believe in living right. But these things have more to do with me and how it affects me in my relationship with God than how it affects God in His relationship with me. You will learn some practical things about this as we continue.

The Bible teaches us that Abraham is the father of faith. We have unfortunately misunderstood this. We think that Abraham is the father of faith because he believed God and Sarah was able to get pregnant. When the Bible talks about Abraham being the father of faith, it is not talking about the father of faith in the ability to get miracles. It is talking about him as the father of faith-righteousness. Abraham is not only the father of faith. He is the father of faith-righteousness.

It says in Romans 4:3, "*What does the scripture say? Abraham believed God*

*and it was credited to him as righteousness.”* Abraham was the first person of record that believed God. Because he believed God, God credited that to him as righteousness. It goes on to say in Romans 4:17, *“I have made you a father of many nations. He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed--the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that be not as though they were.”* The scripture talks about calling things that be not as though they were. Some people place the total emphasis of this passage on the fact that Abraham called himself the father of many nations when he was not. That is probably a legitimate factor. But that is not what the scripture is trying to bring out. It is talking about God calling those things that are not as though they were. What did God call as if it was, but was not? He called Abraham righteous!

One of the most popular messages that I have ever preached was called *“Men of Like Passions.”* I do not think we have it any more, but in this tape I identify Abraham as the father of failure. He is not only the father of faith-righteousness. He is also the father of failure. Abraham’s family was worshiping idols in Ur of the Chaldees. God told Abraham to come out and follow Him. Abraham did not go. He stayed there for years. Finally, his father talked him into following God. When he came out, God told him not to bring anyone with him. Abraham brought his entire family with him. He reaches a particular city. He is not supposed to stop there, but that is where he sets up camp. He stops following God. Finally, his father dies and years go by. Now that his father is dead, he decides to follow God. He follows God into the land of Canaan. When he gets there, there is famine. A lot of people say that the famine was God testing Abraham. No, Abraham was several years late. If you get somewhere and there is a famine, you probably just drug your feet getting there. It is like going to the bus stop. If the bus has already gone, the driver did not leave to get even with you. You got there late.

I once stayed in Harlem while in New York City working with substance abusers. I was the only white man in Harlem. I did not see one other white person and they looked at me funny. Then I had to go to the Bronx. South Bronx is a dangerous place. I would time myself so that when I got to the bus stop I was not going to miss the bus, but I was also not going to have to wait very long. I was almost mugged at a bus stop once. If I had missed that bus and gotten mugged God did not plan that. I just missed

the bus because I got there late.

Abraham got there late and there was a famine. God says, "Do not worry. Just trust me. I will take care of you." He said, "Whatever you do, do not go to Egypt." Where did Abraham go? He went to Egypt. God had told Abraham that through him and Sarah all of the nations of the world would be blessed. If God told you that about your wife, you would obviously need to protect her. Abraham goes to Egypt and nobody really threatens him; he just becomes afraid. Out of fear, he gives his wife to another man. They were not going to pass the night playing Monopoly. He gave his wife to another man to have sex with him. God rescues her and tells Abraham to get back to Canaan.

Abraham leaves, but takes a little Egyptian servant girl back to Canaan with him. God told Abraham to have sex with Sarah and produce a child. Hagar, the Egyptian servant girl, walks by. Abraham says, "I am with you on that sex thing, but God I think you are missing it on who I am supposed to do this with. I believe that this 20 year-old is really the will of God instead of this 60 year-old."

Abraham commits adultery Hagar and has an illegitimate child by her. This is adultery and God is not condoning it. Throughout all of those problems, Abraham never stopped trusting God. Even though he made mistakes he never stopped trusting God. The Bible does not say that a righteous person never falls. The Bible does say in Proverbs 24:16, "A righteous man falls seven times, but he gets up again." It says in Psalm 37:23-24, "*The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord . . . Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with the right hand of His righteousness.*"

I am not telling you to go out and do all of these things. I am also not telling you that it is all right to do these things. It is not all right. Sin is not all right. Sin will kill you. Sin will destroy you. It will make you lose your mind. Sin will harden your heart to God to a point where you cannot have a relationship with Him. But it cannot make God stop loving you. God called Abraham righteous even though he was not. God credited him with righteousness.

The faith walk of the believer is not about whether or not you can believe for miracles. The faith walk of the believer is whether or not you can believe that God still loves you and that you are still righteous even though you have fallen. When you pick

yourself up, you have to say, "I messed up, I failed, but I am still righteous. God still loves me." The proof that you are righteous is the fact that you got back up. Even though you fail, the righteousness inside of you, in your heart, keeps saying, "You can do this. Come on. Trust God. Come on, get up again." The fact that you keep getting up is the proof that righteousness is still alive in you. By the end of this class you are going to learn a lot about walking in righteousness. God called Abraham righteous because he believed God. Our performance did not make us righteous. Jesus made us righteous.

There is a difference between what happened to Abraham and what happens to us. The difference is that Abraham was not really righteous. God just *called* him righteous and treated him as if he were righteous. It is different with us. When we receive Jesus, our spirit man is regenerated and we are given the free gift of righteousness. We have righteousness as a part of our nature. It may not be yielding fruit, and we may not be walking in it, but we do have righteousness. We cannot make ourselves more righteous. Jesus has made us as righteous as we will ever be.

You can do some things to walk in your righteousness so that life is not so difficult and challenging for you. You can do some things that will help you walk with God, but you cannot make yourself more righteous. Most people will agree with me on this, but most people get in trouble thinking that they can make themselves unrighteous. Most people do believe that they can make themselves unrighteous.

How did you get into this life? You were born into it. You cannot undo the fact that you were born. You can kill yourself, but you still cannot deny the fact that you were born as a human being. You cannot become something else. There is no process that you can move through to become something else. You were born a human being; you are going to be a human being. A law is established in Genesis 1:11-12 that says, "*every seed bears after its own kind.*"

How did you become a sinner? You were born into it. You were born with a sinful nature. You did not have to do anything to become a sinner. Your sinful nature led you to do things. When you were a sinner I am sure that you did good things. You may have done several good things. You might have gone to church, tithed and made all kinds of sacrifices. But, none of these things ever changed your sinful nature. You were born into righteous through Jesus. Every seed bears after its own kind. You



cannot become something else. You were born after the seed of Jesus.

Why, as a sinner, do you believe that your good works could not change your sinful nature, but you are willing to believe that your evil works can change your righteous nature? It does not make sense. Evil works can hurt you and sin still kills you, but one thing sin cannot do is change your nature. It can harden your heart and make it hard for you to find God, but it cannot change your nature. We cannot make ourselves righteous. We cannot make ourselves more righteous. We cannot make ourselves less righteous.

In Romans 10:2-4 Paul was speaking of the Jews. He says, *“For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.”* The Jews wanted to earn righteousness through their works, therefore, they rejected the righteousness of God through Jesus. We do the same thing. When we think that we can make ourselves more righteous or less righteous we reject the righteousness of God. We are saying that Jesus is not enough.

Romans 9:30-33, Paul is still speaking, *“What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith, but as if it were by works. They stumble over the stumbling stone. As it is written: ‘See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’”*

Israel wanted righteousness, but they could never get it. They would not abandon their logic. They thought they could only get righteousness through their performance. The Gentiles did not know anything about the law. They were not really looking for righteousness, but someone came and preached to them and said, “Here, we will give you righteousness as a free gift from Jesus,” and they took it. So the Jews, who were trying to get it through their works, could not get it. But the Gentiles, who accepted it as a free gift, got it.

Jesus is not the stumbling stone. The stumbling stone is Jesus as your

righteousness, or faith-righteousness. To this very day, in the church in America, faith-righteousness is still the stumbling stone. People and churches stumble over the issue of faith-righteousness. The question people are actually asking is this, “Does Jesus really make me righteous *enough*?”

Hebrews 6:1-3 says, “*Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.*”

There are six foundational doctrines:

1. Repentance from dead works
2. Faith toward God
3. Doctrine of baptisms
4. Laying on of hands
5. Resurrection of the dead
6. Eternal Judgment

Remember, this whole thing started by him saying that they ought to be teachers by now. He said, “But you are not, so we are going back to dealing with the milk.” He tells them that he wants to get them to a place where they are not going to cling to the principles, to the fundamental things, so that they can go on to perfection. We have been given perfection as a free gift. The next time somebody tells you that you are not perfect, you say, “Oh yes, I am. You may not see it yet, but I am.”

That was the flaw of the law. The Bible says that the law could not make the comers there unto perfect. Our spirit man has been made perfect. We just have not gotten it on the outside yet. We are working on that part and that is what he is talking about. We want to leave these foundational things and go on to perfection.

He says, “*So not laying again the foundation.*” The phrase “*not laying again the foundation*” is a very important phrase. It has two very clear meanings. One of the meanings is to “not cast down or cast away the foundation.” We do want to go on to perfection, but we do not want to cast down the foundation. That means that we need to get a solid foundation laid in our lives from these six foundational truths. No matter what we build, we do not want to cast down or reject that foundation. I want to build

everything that I believe on a foundation. I want to make sure that it lines up with these foundational truths. I am not going to cast away the foundation. It also means not continually laying it over and over or not repeating the foundation. You cannot hear a message on these foundational things every Sunday and arrive at your dreams, your goals, and your destiny.

When I was in the Baptist church, (I am not being critical. I love the people of the Baptist church. I was in a good church, I had a good pastor, and they really helped me.) hearing about how to get saved every Sunday did not help me grow as a Christian. That does not make them bad people. I am saying that the idea of believers getting together on Sundays to hear the Word is to get the tools we need to fulfill our dreams, make our lives count for God and have meaningful relationships, etc. We cannot keep repeating the foundation. Because we win new people to Jesus, and people come to church who do not have a foundation, we have these classes. We can come in and lay the foundation. As you hear these messages, you have a foundation to build on. Also, whether it is something that I preach or someone else preaches, you can always go back and ask yourself if it lines up with the foundation. We should not have to repeat the foundation, but we should also never depart from it.

**FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH**  
**Class # 1**  
**FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Psalm 11:3 *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

The foundation is the \_\_\_\_\_ part of a building.

A faulty \_\_\_\_\_ is what causes people to waver and fall.

Hebrews 5:11-14, NIV, *We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. 12) In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13) Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14) But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

A spiritual infant is not familiar with the teaching of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the cornerstone (or capstone) of the gospel.

Romans 1:17, NIV, For in the gospel a righteousness \_\_\_\_\_ is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:

"The righteous will live by faith."

Romans 3:21,22,NIV, "But now a righteousness from God, \_\_\_\_\_, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

22) This righteousness from God comes through \_\_\_\_\_ to all who believe."

Romans 4:3, NIV, "What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as \_\_\_\_\_."

*Romans 4:17, NIV, "As it is written: 'I have made you a father of many nations.' He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were."*

What did God call Abraham? \_\_\_\_\_.

Why did He call him righteous? \_\_\_\_\_.

Who made us righteous? \_\_\_\_\_.

Can we make ourselves more righteous? \_\_\_\_\_.

Can we make ourselves less righteous? \_\_\_\_\_.

How do we receive the gift of righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 10:2,3,4, NIV, *“For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. 3) Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. 4) Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.”*

The Jews wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness through their \_\_\_\_\_, therefore, they \_\_\_\_\_ the righteousness of God.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the end of the law/works for righteousness.

Romans 9:30-33,NIV, *“What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; 31) but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. 32) Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the “stumbling stone.” 33) As it is written: ‘See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’”*

Is Jesus the stumbling stone? \_\_\_\_\_.

What is the stumbling stone? \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 6:1-3, *“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2) Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3) And this will we do, if God permit.”*

Not laying again can mean:

1. \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_.

We should not have to \_\_\_\_\_ the foundation, but we should never \_\_\_\_\_.