

THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIANITY

Titus 3:1-8

Introduction: With all the denominations of our time and their variations of "faith" and what is essential to the Christian life, there seems to be a diversity as to "who" is right and who is wrong in the Christian faith. Some beliefs sprinkle infants and in their "belief" make them Christians and members of that faith. Others baptize and say that until one is baptized he/she is not fully saved and can lose his/her salvation. Still others say that "once saved, always saved." So just who is right? What are true Christians? What is Christianity?

I. THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

- 1. The foundation of Christian faith lies in history and made contemporary in personal experience.**
- 1 Timothy 1:15
- 2. The foundation of blessing lies in behavior, Christian perseverance in the faithfulness of Christ.**
- 2 Timothy 2:11-13
- 3. The foundation of Christian character lies in the supreme value attached to godliness for its own sake.**
- 1 Timothy 4:7-9
- 4. The foundation of Christian service rests upon a high valuation of the local Church and its leadership.**
- 1 Timothy 3:1

II. CHRISTIANS

- 1. Christians are people to whom something has appeared.**
 - The character of God, as goodness and loving kindness, has been revealed in Jesus Christ, breaking into the darkness of Satan's paganism like a great flaming light.
- 2. Christians are people to whom something has happened.**
 - They have been saved, washed, reborn, made over. Forgiven, purified, reborn, renewed, never to live as they once did, as unbelievers, lost, damned, pagans.
 - The transformation of the Christian is none of their own doing, it was all of God.
 - God saved, not the person, and the saved are God's workmanship.
- 3. Christians are people to whom something has been given.**
 - The Spirit of Christ has been poured out on them, richly.
 - Christians draw life from a new source and face all temptation and adversity with new spiritual reserves.
 - Teaching, strength, power, holiness, growth, vitality, joy are all theirs in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

4. Christians are people to whom something has been promised.

- They are "heirs" of God.
- They have been given eternal life with this gift resting not only on a promise but upon an experienced fact.
- They are already justified, and know that they are heirs to the throne of God.
- They are rich and will be richer in the things of God, but none of it is of their deserving.

CONCLUSION:

1. Only God's graciousness creates such an experience of grace.
 - Courtesy, humility and gratitude must be shown by those receiving such grace.
2. The experience of receiving God's grace given through the Gospel is the foundation of right social relationships, public service and right character.
 - It is the foundation of the Church's future.
3. If "true" Christianity is to pass to the next generation, then those who are "true" Christians must live "true" Christian lives and not just "talk the talk."