

## THE UNFIRM FOUNDATION

By Roelf L. Ruffner

“But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great” (Luke 6:49).

Near my home is the former site of the Lighthouse Baptist Church. Recently it was torn down. The “lighthouse” on top of this denominational edifice once emitted a search light all night long. I reckon you could classify them as fundamentalist or “hard-shell” Baptists. Its zealots used to go door knocking in the apartment complex where I live. They would beat on your door, (In spite of the “no soliciting” signs on the premises.) until you answered and triumphantly ask, “Are you saved?” I would answer, “Yes, by the blood of the lamb, when I was baptized.” They would corner little children playing outside and tell them, “You are a sinner going to Hell - the devil’s child!”

This group was started a few years ago by “Pastor” Baker and his wife. Ex-members claim he pressured the members to “tithe” more so they could erect their building. The property had a long tree lined driveway. There was a school at the church and they were actively involved in bussing kids to services. But when the Recession of 2009 hit the church lost their building to the bank and moved. A water line broke last winter and ruined the interior. The bank finally razed the building and all that is left is a large concrete pad or foundation and a twisted metal fire escape.

I concluded long ago that ALL religion except New Testament Christianity is the devil’s racket to enslave men’s minds and pick their pockets. Whether it is the perfumed “priest” in a clerical collar or the blue jeans wearing pitchman parading as a “minister,” the result is the same - a spiritual disaster. “And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch” (Luke 6:39)?

Religious enthusiasm or zeal can be a grand thing. But when it is based upon the wrong foundation it can bring everlasting tragedy. The Jews of Paul’s day were filled with zeal for God but that zeal was “not according the knowledge” (Rom. 10:2). Their foundation was not the word of God but their man-made religious traditions (Mat. 15:9). They rejected the Christ by rejecting the fulfilled prophesies of the

Scriptures or the word of God. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' (Mormons) foundation is the imagined testimony of a 14 year old boy (Joseph Smith, Jr.) that he talked with an angel, the Father and the Son of God personally (Gal. 1:6-9). The Baptist Church's foundation is the false doctrines of faith-only salvation and (at least in the case of the Lighthouse group) total hereditary depravity (cf. Eze. 18:19, 20) meshed together with an unhealthy dose of subjectivism. For all these the ultimate outcome will be the same – their spiritual house will come tumbling down, overthrown by God. “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Mat. 7:22, 23). “And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Mat. 7:26, 27).

What is the foundation of the religious body you are part of? Is it Jesus and “the apostles and prophets” (The New Testament - Eph. 2:20) or the commandments of men? Is the zeal you feel truly come from “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15) or your own emotions? “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Mat. 7:21).