

# The Front Range

# INFORMER

*Promoting biblical truth and mutual support among churches of Christ in the Centennial State.*

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## *A Firm Foundation*

by John Morris

The word of God teems with imagery. From Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar's prophetic dreams, to Revelation's well-known apocalyptic symbolism, to Jesus' many memorable parables ("The kingdom of heaven is like..."), God employs imagery throughout Scripture to reveal His will. Speaking to the mind's eye, the Bible's imagery encourages us to first envision its truths that we might then be enlightened by them. With pictures, God captures our attention that with His word, He might capture our hearts. It is interesting that one of the most common words in the Bible is "behold". What's more, seven times in Scripture we encounter the question, "What do you *see*?"

One thing we *see* in the New Testament is that the church is depicted in architectural terms. Seven times the church is called a "**temple**"<sup>1</sup>, six times a "**house**"<sup>2</sup>, two times a "**building**"<sup>3</sup>, once a "**dwelling place**"<sup>4</sup>. Though not a physical structure--it is a "spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5)--the church is nonetheless to be *viewed* in a structural sense. And this makes sense; Jesus said He would "build" His church (Matthew 16:18).

The church is an edifice that can be edified (1 Corinthians 14:4), a building that can be built up (1 Peter 2:5). It is, also, a temple that will never be torn down (Daniel 2:44). Built by Him who is eternal, it was built to last, and its foundation is firm: "having been built on the *foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being*

*the chief cornerstone*" (Ephesians 2:20). Creeds come and go, movements wax and wane, preachers rise and fall, but this foundation--the apostles, the prophets, and Jesus Christ--is as sure and unshakeable as the God who gave it. And any church built on more or less compromises its integrity.

The foundation comprises these three:

**The apostles.** Jesus communicated His will not only verbally, but vicariously. During His ministry, He commissioned the apostles with Divine authority (Matthew 18:1, 18), and after His ascension, issued His commands through them. The apostle Paul could rightly write that his commands were "the commands of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 14:37). The apostles' place was prominent. It still is. Though they are no longer present in the flesh, the apostles continue to live through their writings as did Moses and the Prophets (Luke 16:29). They, being dead, still speak. And we must listen. Any who will not hear the apostles "is not of God" (1 John 4:6).

**The prophets.** Peter wrote that "prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). Every true prophet of God, from Samuel and Elijah to the unnamed local prophets of the first century church, spoke by inspiration. The prophets' messages were Divine, thus authoritative, which in turn legitimized their place in the foundation. Several New Testament books (Mark, Luke, Acts, James and Jude) come from the pens of these non-apostolic prophets. According to the

*apostle*, their words must be heeded (2 Timothy 3:16).

**Jesus Christ.** “Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:20). Builders in the ancient Near East sometimes began their buildings with the placement of a large, so-called “cornerstone”. Preferably square, this foundation stone served as a guide for the proper positioning of the other stones in the structure. It was the starting point, it was the guide, it was the connecting-point for two of the building’s walls. In similar fashion, the Lord’s church began with the Lord Jesus’ work—He was its beginning (Matthew 16:18). Furthermore, through His recorded words and examples, He served, and serves, as its guide. And in Him the words of the apostles and prophets find their significance, and are brought together into one cohesive whole—the Old Testament prophets looking *forward*, the New Testament apostles and prophets looking *backward* to Him. In this way, the three are One: “For no other *foundation* can anyone lay that that which is laid, *which is Jesus Christ*” (1 Corinthians 3:11).

For over 19 centuries now, layers of “living stones” (1 Peter 2:5) have been rising upon this firm foundation. Spiritually-minded men and women have been committing themselves to Christ, taking their place in the walls of “God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:9). Someday, the last stone will be laid, the house will be complete, and the world as we know it will cease to have purpose. In that Day, “the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). Every building of human design will be consumed. Every church built on a foundation different from “that which is laid” will be destroyed. Only one structure will endure, the one “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:20)—the *one true church*.

The Day of the Lord is coming. Is your church fireproof?

#### FOOTNOTES:

- 1 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21; 2 Thessalonians 2:4
- 2 1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 3:3; 3:6; 10:21; 1 Peter 2:5; 4:17
- 3 1 Corinthians 3:9; Ephesians 2:21
- 4 Ephesians 2:22

# Bible Mathematics

- “And the Lord *added* to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Ac. 2:47)
- “And believers were increasingly *added* to the Lord....” (Ac. 5:14)
- “For this is my covenant with them, when I *take away* their sins.” (Rom. 11:27)
- “And you know that He was manifested to *take away* our sins....” (1 Jo. 3:5)
- “Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples *multiplied*....” (Ac. 6:7)
- “But the word of God grew and *multiplied*.” (Ac. 12:24)
- “Do you suppose that I came to give peace on the earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather *division*.” (Lk. 12:51)
- “For the word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the *division* of soul and spirit....” (Heb. 4:12)

## QUARTERLY QUIZ

1. Which minor prophet saw a flying scroll?
2. Which prophet gives us the most detailed description of cherubim?
3. What three women provided for Jesus and the disciples out of their means?

### Last Issue’s Questions and Answers

1. *Which of Paul’s letters to a church contains no words of correction?*  
**Answer:** Ephesians
2. *With which of the seven churches of Asia did Jesus find no fault?*  
**Answer:** Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)
3. *How many men in the Bible fasted 40 days?*  
**Answer:** three: Moses, Elijah, and Jesus

## Quick Quote of the Quarter

- *A cold church is like cold butter—never spreads very well.*

# *The Judgment Day*

By Roy Loney  
(adapted)

On the sixth day of creation, God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” (Genesis 1:26). Thus, a great distinction was made between man and the animals. Man was made more intelligent than all the creatures, a free moral agent with sufficient intelligence to be held responsible for his actions. In fact, man is the only one of God’s creations that is held responsible for its conduct. The time will come when each man must give an account to His Lord (Romans 14:12). That time we call the Judgment Day.

The Bible states that God “has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained,” and that “He has given assurance of this to all...” (Acts 17:31). On that Day, the Father Himself will not do the judging. Rather, Jesus said, “[T]he Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son” (John 5:22).

Concerning the Judge, His fairness is unquestioned. Impartial judgment will be meted out to everyone. Each person will appear before “the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:10), and every life will be judged by the standard of *His* words (John 12:48). The rich and poor, the small and great all will be judged on the basis of character, not on the prominence of position or power. The rich man’s money will not help him, nor will the politician’s power gain him favor. Our Judge will have all the facts both for us and against us. Character will be the standard by which each person is judged.

The decision made that Day will be permanent. It will be the decision of the Supreme Court of the universe. A man under sentence of death in this life may, by making appeals to the courts, delay his ultimate sentence, but there will be no such delay that Day. The decision rendered at that time will be final and indisputable. Your future will be settled for all eternity.

This life is the time allotted to prepare for that Day. When it comes, your life, its opportunities and failures, will be in the hand of the Judge. There will be no changing or erasing past decisions. This is why the scripture says, “*Today*, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...” (Hebrews 3:15). “Behold, *now* is the accepted time; behold, *now* is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2). God’s longsuffering and forbearance is in operation now. And the voice of God pleads with you now—mistakes can be corrected, and a wicked life can be changed into one of purity and peace. God is calling yet: “Repent now everyone of his evil ways and his evil doings” (Jeremiah 25:5), for “Why will you die?” (Jeremiah 27:23). ■

~ submitted by Dale Loney

## **Redwoods and the Burl**

By Roy Harris

*Mighty monarchs of the forests,  
Aged millenniums or more,  
Often sprout where trunks are wounded  
And attempt to heal the sore.*

*Like a burl upon the Redwood,  
Where some wound has taken place,  
So a new life sprouts in splendor,  
Often from the storms we face.*

*Bruised and battered, tossed and troubled,  
Redwood trees and humankind  
Rise in triumph on the mountains;  
From the scars new life they find.*

*So the church down through the ages,  
While adjusting to its foes,  
From the scars of Satan’s warrings  
Brings new life from its woes.*

*On the cross that Jesus carried  
Life was crushed, then sprang anew.  
From that bruised and broken body  
Heaven’s hope and lovelight grew.*

(Somewhere There’s a Mountain, Roy Harris, 1996, p. 40)

# Links to the Brotherhood

At these sites you will find audio and video sermons, articles, congregational information, recorded a cappella hymns, and more. See a more extensive list of links at [www.apostlesdoctrine.us](http://www.apostlesdoctrine.us).

## Various Sites of Interest

Living Waters: [www.livwat.com](http://www.livwat.com)  
One True Church: [www.onetruechurch.net](http://www.onetruechurch.net)  
1OneTrueChurch:  
[www.youtube.com/user/1onetruechurch](http://www.youtube.com/user/1onetruechurch)  
The Apostles' Doctrine: [www.apostlesdoctrine.us](http://www.apostlesdoctrine.us)  
The Gospel Message: [www.gospelmessage.net](http://www.gospelmessage.net)  
Tikvah: [www.tikvah.net](http://www.tikvah.net)

## Churches of Christ

### California

Anaheim: [www.anaheimcoc.org](http://www.anaheimcoc.org)  
Bakersfield: [www.livwat.com/fairfax](http://www.livwat.com/fairfax)  
La Verne: [www.lavernechurchofchrist.org](http://www.lavernechurchofchrist.org)  
Norwalk: [www.churchofchristnorwalk.org](http://www.churchofchristnorwalk.org)  
San Jose: [www.sanjosecoc.org](http://www.sanjosecoc.org)

### Colorado

Lakewood: [www.jaystreetchurch.wordpress.com](http://www.jaystreetchurch.wordpress.com)

### Illinois

Alton: [www.princeroadchurchofchrist.org](http://www.princeroadchurchofchrist.org)  
Itasca: [www.itascachurchofchrist.org](http://www.itascachurchofchrist.org)

### Indiana

Indianapolis: [www.chapelglenchurchofchrist.com](http://www.chapelglenchurchofchrist.com)

### Iowa

Des Moines: [www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org](http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org)

### Kansas

Gardner: [www.gardnerchurchofchrist.org](http://www.gardnerchurchofchrist.org)  
Lawrence: [www.lawrencecoc.org](http://www.lawrencecoc.org)

### Missouri

Excelsior Springs: [www.excelsiorchurchofchrist.org](http://www.excelsiorchurchofchrist.org)  
Greenwood: [www.smartroadcoc.org](http://www.smartroadcoc.org)  
Nixa: [www.nixachurchofchrist.org](http://www.nixachurchofchrist.org)  
Ozark: [www.riversideroadcoc.org](http://www.riversideroadcoc.org)

# This & That

from

# Here & There

~birthdays, anniversaries, milestones, events, etc.~

## •Happy Anniversary•

**Pueblo:** Wayne & Marge Worthington (June)

## •Happy Birthday•

**Colorado Springs:** Cynthia Minick (April 10) •  
Cleda Polster (April 11)

**Jay Street:** Betty Loney (May 5) • Muriel Stice  
(May 6) • Dale Loney (June 5) • Mable Craddock  
(July 22) • Jenila Stice (July 23)

## •Guest Speakers/Special Events•

**Colorado Springs:** Eldon Cox (June 7)

**Jay Street:** Eldon Cox (June 14) • Special 3-Day  
Meeting (Aug. 14-16)

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*“Men use religion just as they use buoys and life-preservers; they do not intend to navigate the vessel with them, but they keep just enough on hand to float into a safe harbor when a storm comes up and the vessel is shipwrecked; and it is only then that they intend to use them. I tell you, you will find air-holes in all such life-preservers as that.”*

~ Noah Porter

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