

I. God's Blueprint in Biblical Perspective  
*Foundations from Genesis*  
"LifeViews, LifeLoves, LifeStyles and Divine Sanctities"  
Genesis 1; Psalm 11  
Dr. Harry L. Reeder III  
September 12, 2021 • Sunday Evening Sermon

Prayer:

*Lord we pray, revive Thy church O Lord, for Your glory, hallelujah, Thine the glory, hallelujah, amen that You would be exalted in a church that loves You that has the mind of Christ with a life view, that has the love of Christ with a heart for Christ but a life style to carry out the mission, message and ministry of Christ in this world as Your people. Revive Thy church O Lord and do Your work in us as we commit ourselves to You. We open our hearts to You. We only open what You have given us – new hearts in Christ and we do so with gladness praying that the thoughts of our heart would instruct our minds and would be manifest in our lives, for Jesus' sake, Amen.*

I'm excited to start this series and there are three books I'd like to recommend for your reading that may be helpful to you and there will be others that I will probably mention as we get further in our study. These three books are discipleship books. The first is by R. C. Sproul titled Lifeviews and I would say it's a 201-level book but you will understand it. I once taught this book for a high school class and I still get notes from students who took that class of how helpful it was. The second book is titled Foundations of the Christian Faith by my dear friend Jim Boice (James Montgomery Boice). He is with the Lord now and his wife made sure this book was published as she edited it and it is published through InterVarsity Press. He wrote this particularly for college students in terms of helping them develop their world and lifeview and was used through Bible Study Fellowship. The third book I would recommend is R. C. Sproul's commentary on the Westminster Confession of Faith which is very accessible and helpful and it is titled Truths We Confess.

My desire is that you see this series of sermons as an asset for you to develop a Christian world and lifeview. I am aware of the times we are living in and things that are happening outside the church as well as inside the church. Outside the church we have this next iteration of what began all the way back in the enlightenment and then moved with these various cultural movements to where we now have this secular progressivism being enforced with this totalitarian or authoritarian governments. That can be shaky because of things that are now imposed by governmental fiat in terms of the new cultural mandates of life – i.e. how you view gender, marriage, race, sexuality, parenting, etc. Now our government has taken upon itself along with other cultural shaping institutions like the media, entertainment industry, the academy (particularly higher education) and then the use of lower or secondary education as instruments of indoctrination of our children. I'm constantly aware of all this because of an audio program I do called *Today in Perspective* and it seems like there are no shortage of issues/stories that we have to deal with in new events.

What we have in the culture in general under secular progressivism is an unabashed declaration of the culture of self. This is why I recently recommended the book by Carl R. Trueman titled The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self. Whenever you have this culture of self that is being enforced by the culture shapers of society, you end up with a culture that is marked by insanity, immorality and absurdity. Those are the three markers of a culture of self.

Today in our society we can't even talk about pronouns any longer or deal with biological realities in terms of gender. We have now gone down the rabbit hole of our culture where insanity reigns, immorality is embraced, what is good becomes bad and what is bad becomes good so that every place where God has declared a binary (i.e., good/evil, male/female) the culture of self is in outright rebellion against the Almighty. The way you rebel against the God who is over creation and separate from the creation, that is in and of Himself sufficient, is you rebel against all the binaries He has put in creation. Thus, you end up with a culture that wants to normalize insanity, absurdity and immorality.

Instead of having the church that speaks as salt and light, we now find the movement of modernity that came out of the enlightenment (manifested in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century with liberal Christianity) and into the church, has now morphed again in what used to be churches that confidently and courageously stand on the authority of God's Word – where the Scripture alone is our only rule of faith and practice. Now the church is finding new ways to nuance that commitment and no longer is it Biblical magisterium over doctrine and life, but it is now cultural magisterium. We now find in the evangelical churches a strange silence in the name of ministry on the matters of gender, marriage, sexuality and the sanctity of life. It is all of these things that God has ordained as sanctified, set apart as holy by His creation fiat. By the time they finish speaking in the pulpits today about what they don't believe about it, you actually wonder if they believe anything about these matters whatsoever. That can become very fearful for God's people.

That's where I think the church has to do its job of evangelism and discipleship. The church has to be on mission – the Great Commission of making disciples. The church has to be on message – Gospel saturated teaching of the whole counsel of God. As Jesus said to teach His disciples all that He has commanded (Matthew 28:20). That includes a Biblical view of life, gender, sexuality, marriage, singleness and all of those things. We look to the Scriptures in these matters to be able to have a framework or a life view to understand. How do we do that in the midst of everything seemingly crumbling around us? When you abandon marriage and family in the attempt to redefine it no culture is going to be able to survive that. So how are we to respond in those moments?

We can't be fearful or anxious. Concerned? Yes. Biblical concern? Yes. Know how to respond? Yes. Our Savior's love is perfect and perfect love casts out all fear (I John 4:18). Our Savior stands guard at our hearts so that we can be anxious for nothing but in everything with thanksgiving bring our cares and concerns to Him (Philippians 4:6–7). How then shall we live? We live by His strength and through His Word. I preached a series of sermons on the Apostles' Creed so that God's people could have the essentials that undergirded worship, apologetics and discipleship. This Creed has been used in apologetics to defend the faith before the world, against false teachers in the church and its been used in worship because of its compilation and distillation of essential truths along with discipleship.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century church, there would have been three documents people would have had to read as foundational issues in how to put their life together for Christ. One was the Apostles' Creed which is evangelical true doctrine. Another was the Law of God and its right use in evangelism, discipleship and restraining sin in the world. The third document would have been the Lord's Prayer. Those three documents were the discipleship tools in the early church. During the Reformation the English Parliament called for an assembly due to the conflict they were in with King Charles I which was called the Westminster Assembly. They told them to come up with a confession that all who would uphold Biblical authority could be drawn to and

unite around. There embarked months upon months of debate and out of that came the Westminster Confession of Faith.

From the Westminster Confession of Faith we have this statement of the things most surely believed. This wasn't just the Presbyterians and it was supposed to replace the 39 articles of the Anglican Church but after it was done the Baptists didn't agree with a couple of things so they went off and did a duplication of the Westminster Confession called the Old London Baptist Confession of 1689. Then in America they reproduced the Old London one which is now called the Philadelphia Confession of 1743. Those two confessions are almost verbatim to the Westminster Confession except in two chapters and those are the chapters on sacraments and church government. Then the European Reformation movement didn't really want to get Anglicized here so they did their own confession and catechism called the Belgium Confession and the Heidelberg Catechism. There were a number of things coming out during this time with all of them being very similar to each other as they brought the reformed witness together on the continent of Europe, then to England and then it began to spread through the missionary lanes into Asia, South America and back to North Africa which used to be the center of Christianity at one time, particularly Alexandria.

I bring this out to you because the Westminster Confession is I believe the most secondarily inspired volume in the Christian publications of enormous value yet is seldom consulted and used as it ought to be. The Long Parliament thought it was so exquisitely done, faithful to the Scriptures and necessary for discipleship that they told the Assembly to continue to meet and to create teaching tools so they came up with something to help fathers disciple their children which is known as the shorter catechism to teach the truths found in the Westminster Confession of Faith. After that they came up with the larger catechism designed for pastors to use to train elders so that they would have another in-depth view of Biblical doctrine. When you look at all three of the ones I just mentioned (shorter and larger catechism plus the Westminster Confession) you will see all the elements of the Apostles' Creed enlarged and expounded, the Law of God and the Lord's Prayer. These three basic elements of discipleship have been in place for over 2,000 years.

I have brought all that to you to say this; as I did the Apostles' Creed and prayed through that series, knowing in my heart I don't want you to be shaken. I want you to see these moments, not fearfully, but confidently and courageously in Christ, not carelessly or in a haphazard serendipity way. These are crucial issues. The well-being of societies and nations are at stake as well as millions of lives are at stake. I want you to be courageous and committed and I know that only happens through discipleship. I thank God for all of our small group Bible studies for men and women. I hope and pray you are taking advantage of these kinds of things but I believe the pulpit contributes to that as well. That is what I enjoy about the evening services on the Lord's Day for I can do thematic expository preaching which is my effort to pull the trigger. Think of discipleship as boots on the ground, life on life connecting as your being disciplined in a small group or one on one. Think of the battle for souls also being a cannonade and I think that's what the pulpit provides, to begin to soften up our hearts to get information to us that we can then work from.

This is the reason I didn't want to jump from the Apostles' Creed (level 101) to the Westminster Confession (level 301) and I think it's why Dr. Boice did his book Foundations of the Christian Faith, in which I'd like you to read. I felt the best way to go from the Apostles' Creed was to get back to the Word of God in general but get to what the Bible says, through the initial book of God revealing to us sanctified foundations for life – the book of origins. There is

a reason the one book of the Bible that is most distorted is the book of Revelation and the one book of the Bible that perhaps is the most attacked is the book of Genesis. The book of Genesis is the book of origin. I am going to try and lay out for you 15 sanctities of foundations for the Christian life that come from the book of Genesis. We will also trace them from other passages of Scripture but these are all found in Genesis. They are foundations for life so that you are not shook with what you see in the culture of self, with its insanity, immorality and its absurdities.

As Christians, I want you to be equipped to move into every sphere of society – corporate America, political America, journalistic media America, academia. At one time, 90 percent of the higher education institutions in America were under the oversight of evangelical Christianity and we withdrew from that. It was wrong for us to do that, but I don't want you to go to any sphere of society thinking is the key to the hearts of men, women and the culture. The answer is not in the next election or in the next corporate initiative. The answer is in the Great Commission, the Great Commandment and the great commitment of God's people to evangelize, disciple and turn out Christians who are salt to the earth and light to the world. There is no one shot, quick silver bullet that is going to turn it around. Now, can God bring a sweeping Gospel awakening? Absolutely. Do I pray for that? Absolutely, but in the meantime, I want to keep oil in my lamp and keep burning every day until the day He comes and that's what I believe God has called us to do.

So, I would like to take the 201 level of foundations and bring it to bear upon you in a certain context that is found in Psalm 11. This is a Psalm of David. It is a declaration that the Lord is in His holy temple which is the way it is entitled. That Psalm was to be sung and it was given to the choir master. Here is what David confesses.

Psalm 11:1 says [1] *In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain.* David plants his flag. One of the things I have missed the last few years due to COVID-19 was my annual meeting with college students who were getting ready to go off to college and some of the things I would tell them is that they would get six weeks to find a church near their college and as soon as they get there plant the flag. Get in a church, get in a college ministry, paint the colors, get college friends and start telling anybody and everybody you can that you are a Christian. I'm not talking about telling them in a self-serving arrogant way but let people know that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior. This is what David is doing here – planting his flag.

Where do I take refuge? I take refuge in the Lord. My confidence is in the Lord but the problem is that some of his counselors/advisors didn't have that confidence in the Lord. We don't know when this Psalm was written, whether it was written during the apostasy of his sons or internal conspiracies but I believe it was written in the midst of one of the onslaughts of the Philistines, because of the language that is used. We do know it was written during a time of crisis and in the midst of crisis David makes this declaration – in the Lord I take my refuge, but that is not what was being advised to him. Here was the advice from the culture of fear that had developed even within his realm of reign, during his kingship.

They weren't just whispering in David's ear for he had counselors of fear that were speaking to his soul. They are telling him to go flee away from the crisis that is happening. Let's continue in the Psalm.

Psalm 11:2 says [2] *for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.* They are telling David the wicked are all around him. The bow has been feathered and the arrow has been strung. In other words, they are not even waiting for a good shot, they are just trying to hit God's people in the heart. They

aren't looking at livelihood but are looking to take lives. They have weapons of war against them and are prepared. They have been cut loose and are coming upon us, David so we need to get out of here. Let's go so fast that the birds are in our wake. Let's flee, not to God's Mountain (the refuge of God) but to your mountain David (your own refuge). Then comes their dire warning and it's an accurate warning.

Psalm 11:3 says [3] *if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?* Our whole life is built on the foundations that God has put in place. The enemies of God are now assaulting the people of God and the foundations of God. If the foundations are destroyed then what can we do? Recently, I've been somewhat absorbed in the 9-11 issues and remembering what had happened on 9/11/2001. Some people have asked me recently what happened to all that unity we had during that time that maybe only lasted about six weeks. Why did it disappear so quickly? I will answer that on my audio program *Today in Perspective* on 9/15/21 if you would like to tune in. I will tell you one of the reasons we were able to be unified at that time is because we saw something that was evil and we were willing to call it evil but before long we could no longer call it evil because to call that evil, we had to look at ourselves, our own lives and our own ethics personally, corporately and nationally. I'm not running down America. I'm just telling you that we're the biggest purveyor of pornography and we have a genocidal assault on the unborn. It's hard to call people killing the innocent evil when you're doing the same thing. Because we could no longer call it what it is then the unity began to dissipate, not only for that reason but for other reasons.

As I was recently watching a program on 9-11, thinking my way through it, watching those towers come down and the intense heat that some engineers were talking about as to how the heat kept going down and down until the very things that all that weight rested upon could no longer hold it up. It was compromised. If the foundations are destroyed it doesn't matter how big the superstructure is or how beautiful the capstone is, what will the righteous do? You are watching the foundations under assault in a culture, not only do you have secular progressivism but there is religious progressivism – progressive Christianity in the evangelical church and the loss of ability to teach sound doctrine and the whole counsel of God, a loss in the efficacy and confidence in the Gospel of God and if that is destroyed what will the righteous do? I will speak to the issues of foundations in the culture with a Biblical world and life view on public policy because I love my neighbor. I will continue to speak to the issue of historic Biblical Christianity and faithfulness to theological fidelity because I love Christ's church, but if the foundations of a church are destroyed because no one is putting any confidence to it, let me assure you, the foundations of Christ and His true church, will never be destroyed.

Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, [18b] *on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* Denominations may come and go and I don't want mine to go, but if it does through apostasy or carelessness, I know Christ is the foundation and He will not fail. I know His church is built upon the foundations of the Apostles and Prophets and it will not fail. When He comes that church will be waiting for her Groom – on mission, on message and in ministry. My confidence is not in this culture or every expression of Christ's church, it's in the Lord I take refuge and His foundations will stand. They cannot be shaken if we embrace them and understand them. How does David respond to this? Let's look further in the text.

Psalm 11:4 says [4] *The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes see, His eyelids test the children of man.* Here is God ruling from the heavens, present in His temple. He dwells within His faithful church. He indwells His people who belong to Him for their body is a temple of the Holy Spirit and they will stand in Christ. He indwells local

churches that are faithful to Christ and they will stand for Christ. David's confidence is in the Lord. God is sovereignly ruling from the heavens and His powerful presence is upon the earth. That was David's answer to the culture of fear from his counselors who were telling him to flee. No, the Lord is Victor – Christ has won the victory for our soul. He will accomplish His purposes because He is in the midst of His people and His true church.

My job is not to be fearful; my job and my calling is to be faithful as a Christian, faithful as a pastor and try to lead a church to faithfulness and impact all of those who join us with a like profession of faith in our confession, with confidence in the Lord. It is in the Lord that we take refuge. What is the Lord doing with these things that would cause you to fear and run? David tells his counselors that the Lord is working on us. The Lord is using this adversity to test the righteous. What will He do with the wicked, those that don't repent?

Psalm 11:5–6 says [5] *The LORD tests the righteous, but His soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.* [6] *Let Him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.* I think David is looking at two things here. He is using the adversity of the wicked to form and frame His people. It is in the fiery ordeals that the dross is being burned away. It is in adversity that the true believer is growing with their confidence in the Lord. He uses the wicked to mature, mobilize and multiply His people and if those wicked don't repent the picture is of a Sodom and Gomorrah or the picture of Gehenna and the torment of hell. God is sovereign and the soul that sinneth shall surely die (Ezekiel 18:20, Romans 6:23). Here is what David says in the closing of this Psalm.

Psalm 11:7 says [7] *For the LORD is righteous; He loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold His face.* It doesn't say the Lord loves those who try to attempt righteousness for salvation, for the Lord's righteousness is our salvation but a people who pursue righteousness out of love for the Lord will behold His face. There is David's confidence. So we enter in, not with fear or uncontrolled anxieties, certainly valid concerns, knowing that God is doing a work in the hearts and souls of His people and His true church. His true church and believers in moments like this don't run to the hills.

I have an illustration on this. Do you remember Y2K? Y2K stands for the year 2000. I was a pastor in Charlotte, North Carolina and was just coming to Briarwood during that time in 1999. I had people in Charlotte mad at me because I wasn't out campaigning Y2K and telling everyone that it was the end of the world. You hear things like, did you know the computers are going to break and everything will fall apart when we hit the year 2000. Then there was an elder in one of the sister church's we planted who left the church and was going to live on 50 acres of land he had bought in the mountains of North Carolina with his children. They asked me if I would talk with this elder so I said I would.

I went to talk with this elder and he said 'Harry, you don't understand, this is the end of the world.' I said 'So what? I think that's the beginning of a new heavens and a new earth if I'm not mistaken which means Jesus comes back.' He said 'Yeah, but don't be so cavalier for I have children to think about.' I said, 'Hopefully with your evangelism you are getting them ready for the new heavens and new earth. What are they learning from your fear? What will that do in the day of their adversity?' I still didn't make a dent with this elder so I pulled out my last gun. I said, 'You're an elder, you stand in the legacy of the Overseer, Christ, and when the adversity comes upon the sheep what does the Great Shepherd do? Run to the hills or lay down his life for the sheep?'

We cannot live that way unless we think Biblically so I'm asking you to go through this series with me, using the book of Genesis, the Lord's foundations/sanctities. He is the One we

put our confidence in. What has He divinely designed as a foundation for our lives? He has done this through three things – creation, redemption and providence. God is your Creator, your Redeemer and your Provider. We will see these sanctities that He brings as we go through Genesis, so that your foundations are sure. The Lord is your Refuge and we will not be shaken. So, we are going to take a look at God’s blueprint and what is that blueprint He has given us as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer?

I’m so looking forward to this series and going through them with you as we look at the sanctity of life, the sanctity gender, the sanctity of God’s revealed Word, the sanctity of creation and the days of creation, the sanctity of the Sabbath, the sanctity of work, the sanctity of rest, etc. We will look at each of these from the book of origins and then see how God unfolds this for us in the next 65 books – all through the preeminence, prominence and proclamation of Christ our Lord and Savior. Psalm 46:1 says *[1] God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.* He dwells in His temple and rules from the heavens. God uses the adversary and the adversity to mature, multiply and mobilize His people. As the test of life comes and we flee not to our mountains, but to Christ for in Him we take refuge and we embrace the foundations that He has ordained as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

I believe the year was 1968, Bill Anders, was among the first astronauts to orbit the moon. He didn’t land on it, just orbited it. On Christmas Eve, the crackling voice from Apollo 8, said he was the first man to look back at the earth rising on the horizon of another sphere as he saw this startling blue planet that God has designed for our home to inhabit and use for His glory and out this man’s mouth from his heart said, ‘In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.’ That’s where we’re headed, that book of Genesis – God our glorious Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. How interesting that when he saw the handiwork of God he was evoked to praise Him.

When I was reading about that orbit this past week a couple of verses captured my mind and my heart. Habakkuk 2:14 says *[14] For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.* Then all the way from the other side of the moon *[6] Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!* (Psalm 150:6). Do we enter into these days with hearts of praise and confidence that the Lord is our refuge? His foundations that He sovereignly rules over, where He is present with us, cannot be shaken.

Now, O God, teach us the foundations of life from Genesis. That is how we will learn lifestyle stewardship. You have to have a life view to filter and frame everything because out there are unbelievably gifted people trying to give you their filter and frame and they have you for about eight hours a day. I have you for about 50 minutes but God’s Word is with you every day. Dig deep and see the foundations. Then with a life view that you embrace because of a life love for the love of Christ compels you, now we’re ready for a lifestyle that is not governed by fear but walks in faithfulness and isn’t looking to the false messiahs, but is looking to bring the claims of Christ to every sphere of society. Our God reigns! Let’s pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word. Thank You Jesus for the love of Christ that You have shown to us as our Messiah, Prophet, Priest and King. Thank You for giving us Your Word. As we work our way through it would You help us understand the very foundations of the faith, once and for all delivered to the saints? God, we do this not simply to be relieved of fears and anxieties but to be ready to serve You as soldiers of Christ, servants of Christ, harvesters for Christ and ambassadors for Christ, who live with the perfect

love of Christ, anointing us and propelling us. So, give us a heart for Christ, the mind of Christ and lives built on the unshakeable foundations of Christ. In the Lord we take our refuge. O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come, Amen.