

Gods Sure Foundation

by *Scott Leach*

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Psalm 93 *"The LORD reigneth, He is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith He hath girded Himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.*

Thy throne is established of old: Thou art from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves.

The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.

Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh Thine house, O LORD, forever."

In reading Psalm 93 recently, I was struck by the simple, yet profound contrast that is presented. The psalm is only five verses, but it succinctly conveys the indisputable supremacy and infallible nature of our Lord and His throne. His eternal attributes are contrasted with the sea – its crashing power and its thunderous breakers seem to be seeking to challenge the LORD who reigns. His might and His throne are undisturbed by the raging tumult. Likewise, His *testimonies are very sure* (Psalm 93:5). "Very sure" (KJV) is also translated "fully confirmed" (NASB) and "very trustworthy" (ESV). His Word is as sure as His Throne!

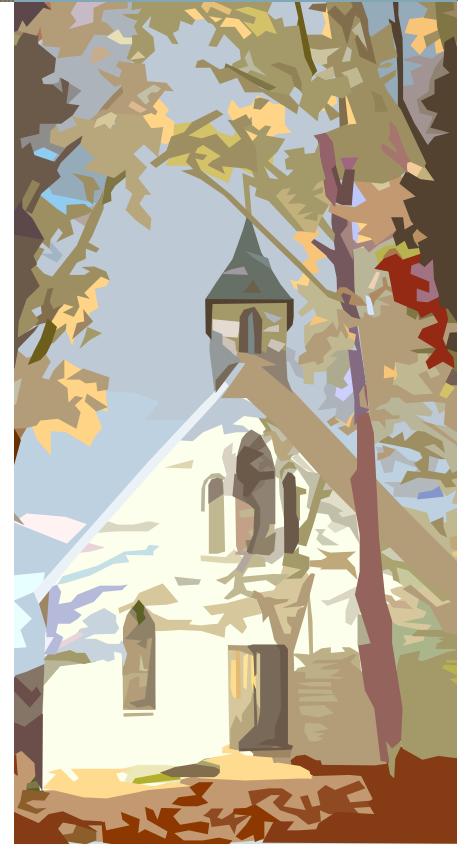
*"Our Lord has not left His own without a sure Foundation
Matthew 7:24,25*

That brought to mind the words of the Lord Jesus: *"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock"* (Matthew 7:24,25). Our Lord has not left His own without a sure foundation! Just as He is established above the tumultuous waves, He has given us His Word, a mighty rock, on which we may be firmly established in the day the torrents come upon us. The Lord Jesus assures that the wise person who hears and does His Word will remain when the storms of life assail.



This is a great encouragement to the individual Christian, and by extension, the assembly of believers. Though we may be weak individually or small in number, our strength, our assurance, our foundation is not based upon us, but upon His promises and His pledge.

The board of Stewards Foundation chose this Scripture as a motto: *"The foundation of God stands sure"* (2 Timothy 2:19). That foundation is His Word. May this great treasure – The Word of God Himself – be ever precious to us, not only to read and study, but to apply and find assurance as we seek to serve Him who loved us and gave Himself for us!



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I CORINTHIANS 4:2, "IT IS REQUIRED"

The Ezekiel Project

In 1983, an evangelist wrote a very thought-provoking question, "Where are the evangelists today?" As I read his question I said to myself, we have evangelists, they just need to be developed. The perceived dearth of evangelists and evangelism then was not only true within the assemblies in the U.S. and Canada, but all over the world. It is still true today in 2017. Evangelists still need to be developed, but the problem must be addressed wisely and with Godly, Biblical solutions.

In 1992, an assembly organization, The Ezekiel Project, Inc. (TEP) was founded. It started with a basic training seminar in evangelism, hosted by Grace Chapel in Tenafly, New Jersey. The purpose was to teach evangelism laden with truth and useful techniques to those that were interested in winning souls for Christ. The Lord blessed this effort. That first seminar yielded 17 students from all walks of life, and from various countries. Since then, TEP has held seminars in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Atlanta, Miami, Kansas City and Detroit. These seminars have changed the lives of students by equipping and assuring them that evangelism is not only doable but also, dare I say, fun? Yes, fun!

As we progressed in this ministry, the Lord led us to start a tuition-free, nine-month school of evangelism called The Ezekiel Project School of Evangelism, affectionately named TEPSE. After four years of a trial school and writing course work, TEPSE opened in 1997 in Mt. Clemens, Michigan, a suburb of north Detroit. The full-time school offered a challenging college level curriculum designed to disciple evangelists and train future missionaries.



TEP and TEPSE needed room for more students so in 2000, we moved 23 miles north into farm country of Armada, Michigan and renovated a 2,400 square foot pole barn. Several classes with students from all over the world were conducted in that barn with great results. Though small in number, we remained big in our academic standards, teaching courses that made a

difference in the future usefulness of our student. First year courses included, Time Management, Hermeneutics, Homiletics, Survey of the whole of the Scriptures, Cults and World Religions, all divisions of Systematic Theology, Bibliology, Personal Evangelism, Apologetics, and Discipleship.

In 2016, the Lord opened an opportunity for TEP/TEPSE to expand again. We found a 1.8 acre piece of property in nearby Richmond, Michigan with 3 buildings: an 9,000 square foot old church structure, a 2,400 square foot pole barn, and a house where the 86-year old former pastor resided with his wife. We prayed hard for wisdom and the funds to purchase this property. God used various organizations to help in securing the purchase. Steward's Foundation was instrumental in helping us think through the purchase as well as assist TEP in a practical way.



Having paid the negotiated price, the property is now owned free and clear. Classes for the 2016-2017 school year were suspended to renovate the main building. Progress on the renovation work is going well with plans being made to begin the upcoming school year on Monday, August 28, 2017.

We are excited to have the first-year curriculum in place, and are working on a new second-year curriculum. The tuition-free second-year courses include, Shepherding with Dr. Steve Price and the Book of Romans with Mike Atwood. Also offered are Christian Perspectives, Wisdom Literature, Hermeneutics II, Formulation and Theology of the Bible, Church History, Historical Geography, Missions I and Missions II, The Gospel of John, How To Teach The Word of God, The Theology and Techniques of Evangelism, Expository Preaching and a Survey of the whole Bible.

TEPSE is making plans to host two annual national conferences on the school grounds. The first conference will be held November 10-12, 2017. The speaker will be Mike Atwood. The second conference is being planned for the spring of 2018 with details to be announced.

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IN STEWARDS THAT A MAN BE FOUND FAITHFUL”

Continued from page 2

TEP and TEPSE continue to focus on our original calling, namely the discipleship and training of evangelists and missionaries for the glory of God, the expansion of His Church, as well as the edification of His saints. Please pray for us as we seek to “stand in the gap” between Heaven and Hell, equipping the Church and giving the Gospel to a lost and dying world.

Excerpt from Letters of Interest ©

Stewards Foundation came into being because of a costly investment mistake by a Chicago business man. William G. McCartney was selling furniture for a large Chicago department store when his home assembly decided to build a new gospel hall. A business meeting was held for the purpose of raising the necessary funds through interest-bearing loans and outright contributions from members.

The question was asked as to why money could not be secured on loan from a bank, and the reply was given that banks would not loan to churches; at least not except on personal signatures acceptable to the bankers. Jumping to the conclusion that banks did not consider church loans good risks, the young business man decided he would be unwise if he put his savings into a loan to the assembly. So, instead of making a loan, he made an outright gift of a much smaller amount, and on counsel of a business superior, put his money into some bank stock. Not long after the banking firm closed its doors and he lost his investment, while those who lent the money to the assembly got it back with interest.

Pondering over the facts that commercial loans for assembly building projects were practically unobtainable and that Christians were faithful in meeting their obligations, Mr. McCartney developed the idea of a non-profit organization to finance gospel halls and chapels and other assembly building enterprises and to raise the money through the sale of securities (bonds) to Christians in the assemblies. This would give the Lord’s people a source of investment offering a good return on their money, and a source of satisfaction in helping to make possible necessary Christian building projects.

Four other brethren, all in the Chicago area, joined him in incorporation of Stewards Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, chartered under the laws of the State of Illinois. That was in 1945.

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

Data Base Project



For many years Walterick Publishers, then Emmaus Correspondence School (ECS) published an assembly address book with useful contact information. The initial intent of the address book was to help travelers find a local fellowship of Christians with whom they could meet during their travel. But having a way to contact assemblies and elders has proven to be useful beyond the needs of travelers.

More recently, Assembly Care Ministries (ACM) has assisted ECS in gathering contact information for this publication. The challenge continues to be that of keeping the information current.

As the focus has shifted away from a printed book to online information, ACM is making a concerted effort to bring this database current. Assembly leaders are being asked to help bring their assembly’s information up to date. ACM works hand-in-hand with ECS so that the information gathered will be shared for the benefit of all.

Stewards Foundation would like to encourage assembly correspondents and / or elders to participate in this endeavor. You can go online to assemblycare.org to find your assembly and see if the information provided is current. If not, you can go to the Directory section and click on FAQ for help in updating your assembly’s information.

Stewards Foundation Updated Website

Our updated website, www.stewardsfoundation.org has information about Loans, including applications that can be printed and a loan calculator. The Resource section includes information about purchasing or constructing buildings, and construction contracts. You will also find information on investing in the work of Stewards Foundation through Planned Giving. A calculator is available for you to see how your investment would benefit both yourself and Stewards Foundation.

Call us if you have any questions or if your assembly is considering a building purchase or construction project.

Psalms 126:3, "The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad"



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