

Living in Divine Absolutes

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3).

Week in, week out, month in, month out, a believer needs to make sure that he never deviates from the foundation of Christ. He must keep building properly on that foundation through the absolutes of the Word of God. Otherwise, his capacity for the moral precepts of the Word will deteriorate, and life will become nothing more than a religious game.

We live in an age of relativity. Few hold onto truth. “Situation ethics” promotes inconsistency and a lack of stability in society. The effects have been devastating, even in the Church.

God’s Word is absolute. Everything the Bible says about the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are facts. God is not a man that He should lie. This booklet will show that the only “house” equipped to weather the storms of this world’s system are those constructed of divine absolutes

that rest on the sure foundation of Jesus Christ.

Chapter One

HAVING AN EVERLASTING
FOUNDATION

“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.

“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

“Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.

“If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward”

(1 Corinthians 3:9-14).

Every believer must be careful and honest about how he is building on the foundation. Every moment, every thought, every relationship, every conversation is building something on God's foundation. The believer's foundation is Jesus Christ. Yet, if we build upon it wood, hay, and stubble, the structure will be easily destroyed, though the foundation remains.

The unrighteous, however, build houses of clay on foundations of dust, and they are crushed like a moth (Job 4:19).

Picture an old rundown shack, a very poor structure without a foundation. I wouldn't want to be there on a windy day. Yet, I would feel very secure in a strong house that was established on a sure foundation. That house wouldn't go anywhere in the midst of a storm. "As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation" (Proverbs 10:25).

"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2).

Do you want teaching from a pulpit that

adds to or takes away from the Word in order to accommodate your flesh and your habits? What kind of structure would that sort of ministry produce? Certainly, not a good one. Whatever God commands us, we must be available for Him to do through us. We cannot add to it nor diminish it (see Deuteronomy 12:32).

Every time I preach, I have to teach the Word as it is written—I cannot take away from it, nor can I add to it. Because of the condition of your heart, on a given day you may adore a message that builds you up. The next message you hear, however, may stir you with solemn conviction. The Word is still doing the same work, but it may hurt because it is rooting out what needs to be rooted out in order to make you mature.

Furthermore, I am to teach *everything* in the Word of God; every pastor is charged to present the entire scope of the Scriptures. There is no such thing as a “better” sermon from a pulpit where the whole counsel of God is being taught. Certain messages may seem more relevant because of what the listener is going through; but really, every word is relevant. Either we *are* going through something or we will be, and we need the Word to make it through.

What “All” and “Every” Mean

“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar” (Proverbs 30:5-6).

“...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

Is it clear what God means by the words “all” and “every”? Pastors must preach *all* the Scriptures, for they are all inspired. Every believer is to live by *every* word of God. Jesus prayed to the Father, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). Jesus Christ and His Word—all of it—must be our foundation. If not, then we are sure to have problems in our marriages, families, and friendships. If our foundation is flawed, the structure will never look right to God.

Attitudes and Additions

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

“And if any man shall take away from the

words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen” (Revelation 22:18-21).

Consider this: Have you ever added to the Bible by being angry, critical, envious, jealous, or petty? Those attitudes add something that accommodate the flesh. We cannot afford to add things to justify our wrong thinking or our sinful lifestyle. We have to lay a foundation against the time to come (1 Timothy 6:19).

Because of decisions against God and God’s Word, America is in the midst of a cycle of discipline from God. Therefore, we have to be very careful about maintaining our foundation. We must take heed to build upon it one day at a time, in the grace and love of God.

Paul wrote, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Chapter Two

THE GRACE FOR GRACE
STANDARD

Ponder this in your hearts: The believer's foundation is the pure grace of God, motivated by the love of God. This foundation enables us to experience the forgiveness of God whereby we receive the cleansing and purging from the guilt of sin. We have the possibility of becoming new, moment by moment.

"In the beginning...." Everything about our foundation began with the Book of Genesis. In this book we have the first marriage, the first family, the first sin (and the results of it), and redemption. Genesis records the first blood offering made by God for Adam and Eve. In obedience to God, Abel also brought a blood offering, but Cain, in rebellion, brought an offering of vegetables. One saved, one lost—and the lost one murdered the saved one. Why? Cain had removed himself from the foundation laid

by God.

In Genesis, God said He would make man in His image. So He formed Adam from the dust of the earth, then He took Eve out of Adam and gave her to him. In the heart of eternity, the foundation for marriage was God uniting a man and a woman as a picture of the oneness of the Trinity. The man is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church, and the woman is to submit to him (see Ephesians 5:22-25). What has happened? The foundation for marriage has been destroyed. Homosexuals are now granted licenses to marry one another, to receive government assistance, and, in some states, to adopt children. God's foundation is mocked. Lesbians with lesbians, homosexuals with homosexuals, bringing reproach upon God's perfect plan (see Leviticus 18, Romans 1:18-32).

The foundation has been lost, so there is no supporting structure for marriages and families. Therefore, no superstructure exists for the home, and it grieves the heart of God. Eventually, it will cause Him to reject this nation.

The foundation for capital punishment that was established by God in the Old Testament and upheld throughout the New Testament is gone. Because our policies are inconsistent,

every year we see hundreds of murders in each of our major cities. In my opinion, if the judicial system would do it God's way by using capital punishment and severe penalties, we could clean up almost all of the crime. Offenders would think twice before committing an offense against the law. But that foundation is gone, and crime increases. Gangs, thieves, drug dealers, and murderers steal away the freedoms and rights of person and property. The foundation is gone. And if the foundation be destroyed, what will the righteous do?

But Grace for Grace

The balance is this: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: but I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away" (Matthew 5:38-42).

The foundation includes not adding to or taking away from the Word of God. The founda-

tion includes grace, not an eye-for-an-eye mentality. Jesus said, "You might say an eye for an eye, but I don't say that." According to John 1:16, it is now "grace for grace." There has been an exchange in God's provision for the New Testament believer in the Church Age. It is no longer an eye for an eye. Many believers enter into arguments with the thought of "an eye for an eye," and they can't get along.

"Don't think in terms of an eye for an eye," Jesus said. "Use love, and do good to them that spitefully use you. Give them the love they have never had. Give them the grace that you have received from Me. I give you grace, and you give it to them. That is your foundation now: grace for grace. Be a good steward of grace on every side" (see 1 Peter 4:10).

If one party in a marriage enters into an eye-for-an-eye mentality, regardless of who is at fault, there is no godly foundation in that home. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:3). This is the Word of God.

Chapter Three

LIVING BY THE WHOLE
COUNSEL

Children are not to tell their parents what the standards for right living should be, nor should parents dictate their own standards. Parents are only to communicate *God's* standards in love. That produces a godly foundation. And when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Holy Spirit of God raises up a standard against the devil (Isaiah 59:19*b*). That standard is the Word of God revealed by the Spirit.

As a believer, I am to live by every word of God; and as a pastor-teacher, I am to preach every word of God. No congregation should turn against a preacher who is obeying the Book. Still, some people get angry when the whole counsel of God is preached (Acts 20:27) and when that preaching doesn't accommodate certain exceptions. These carnal Christians want to sustain Adam's rights in their lifestyles.

A Christian school must have standards. Love, forgiveness, grace, and restoration are there; but standards are vital, and they must be upheld. A marriage needs standards. Husbands and wives shouldn't *think* about going out on one another (see Ephesians 5); this is God's standard. A pastor should not usurp any authority over the lives of men and women in his congregation. He should just quote directly from the Word of God in love. But once the pastor is finished preaching, he must trust God for the decisions people make with their volition.

No Room for Compromise

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1).

“Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright” (Proverbs 23:31).

“Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also,” (Habakkuk 2:15a).

A man didn't write any of these verses. A man did not declare that there could be no leaven in the Passover feast (which indicates that the “wine” Jesus drank at the Last Supper

had absolutely no fermentation). No, the Holy Spirit inspired these verses to be written so that we may be mature, thoroughly furnished unto what is good before God.

Now, what kind of pastor would you want to have? One who compromises the standards of the Book, or one who stands on a foundation of convictions derived from the whole counsel of God?

In friendships, we cannot remove ourselves from the standards of the Word. God's standard is that a friend is born for adversity and loves at all times (Proverbs 17:17). A friend covers when there is sin; he doesn't repeat the matter, but he lovingly goes alone to restore that person (Proverbs 17:9). This is charity that doesn't fail.

A teenager wrote to me, saying, "I have been secretly watching pornography and listening to hard rock music. But recently when you preached upon our potential with God, I went to my room and wept and said, 'God, forgive me—I repent.'"

A woman told me that for more than fourteen years, she had only partially honored her husband. "I was rebelling against him because I had never seen his potential," she said. "I went to him, embraced him, and asked his forgive-

ness for never building him up and for not being a helpmate. He is a changed person! Thank you for your message. I am so free. It is easy when you do it God's way."

God's way is love, mercy, and grace—seeing each other's potential. Let's never be removed from that foundation. Regarding friendships, Proverbs 27:10 says, "Thine own friend and thy father's friend, forsake not...." We must not be removed from the foundation for family and marriage; instead, we need to love, honor, and esteem others above ourselves.

Forsake Fashions that Fade

We live in the world, and of course we need to go out into the world. Yet, Jesus said He was hated by the world because as He went, He testified of its evil (see John 15:18, John 7:7). He let the disciples know that if they were not hated too, it was because they would not deal with the evil of the world.

Love not the satanic system, nor anything that is in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. The lust of the eyes and the pride of life—they are of the world, not of the Father.

Why talk about following the fashions of the

world? Fashion passes away. I am for heavenly fashion: that is, godly modest apparel. The real stars are *not* in the movies; they are the Christians who go out soul-winning. Daniel 12:3 tells me that those who win souls are wise and shall shine as the stars of heaven forever and ever. Our brightness will surpass anything the world can manufacture. God's people will shine "as the stars," speaking of the glorified bodies of Christians reigning with Jesus Christ.

Some Christians choose to entertain their flesh with too much television and movies because they don't want to grow in the Spirit and in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. When you live in the flesh, you have to accommodate it or you become bored. These words may sound harsh, but they are said in love to encourage you to receive all the blessings God desires to give you.

The Word of God, the Spirit of God, the love, the grace, the mercy, the convictions, the standards, the purity, the counsel, the wisdom, and the joy of God, with the direction of the Word in the Spirit—all these are attributes of a sure foundation.

Store Up Eternal Rewards

We need to have a sure foundation. The whirlwind takes the wicked away, *but the righteous shall be an everlasting foundation* (see Proverbs 10:25). Jesus Christ is our foundation, yet we also *become* a foundation for others. A godly husband becomes a foundation for his wife and children. A godly pastor becomes a foundation for his church. Don't misunderstand: Jesus Christ is our foundation, and we become a foundation for others in soul-winning, in Body life, in prayer, and in consistent Christian living.

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:2-4).

As a Christian, a pastor is accountable to God. When a preacher opens the Bible, he has to keep in mind that everything in it came from God. Therefore, he must study to show himself approved unto God, "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of

truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). Any time someone has a problem with the message, the real problem is always the condition of their heart; it is never the condition of the Word (see 2 Timothy 3:16).

When people don’t treat us well, our lives can be a godly foundation, built upon with gold, silver, and precious stones by manifesting the love and grace of God through us. Therefore, when our day comes to stand before the Lord at the Bema Seat, we will receive great rewards because we built properly on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Others will be saved as by fire, and everything they have done will be burned up before their eyes in the Supreme Court of heaven. They will be ashamed for a season when they realize their loss was because of their choices (see 1 John 2:28).

Our church, our day schools, and our college will continue to stand on a sure foundation—a right foundation that leads to right teaching and right thinking, with love and mercy taking care of the building process. We are always building *something*. God’s desire is to build in us a “superstructure”—an extension of our foundation, which is Christ. Every pastor desires that each believer he presents to the Lord will be accepted with honor and receive rewards at the Bema

Seat. As a pastor, I will present members of my congregation to Jesus Christ. I want to watch as He distributes amazing rewards for the loving stewardship of grace displayed in each life. I look forward to seeing God honor those who were determined that they would never be removed from the right foundation.

Make decisions now that you are going to honor God's sure foundation and lay up for yourselves treasures for eternity that is to come (1 Timothy 6:19). "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: *he that believeth shall not make haste*" (Isaiah 28:16)—because it is a *sure* foundation.

Don't build a house upon the sand and watch it fall like an old shack when the rains descend, and the floods come, and the winds blow (Matthew 7:26). Let's build our homes and families upon the Rock, Jesus Christ, so they will stand through the many trials and tribulations we face (Matthew 7:24). Then, when the rains descend and the floods come, when the winds beat upon the "house," we will stand—because we are built upon the Rock (1 Corinthians 10:4).

Let's not be removed from the Rock; let Him

develop in us a magnificent superstructure so we can be witnesses in all the world. I thank God for all churches and ministries that believe that Christ is the answer and that He alone is our Rock.

Chapter Four

ABSOLUTE THINKING FOR LIFE

Do you have a Bible-absolute for every category of your thinking? Certainly, we use rebound immediately when we fail, and we recover purely by faith. But Bible absolutes in our thinking will preserve us and make us happy in every divine institution we encounter.

We are not to add to or take away from the Word of God. When we add Adam's jealousy or Adam's anger—to a situation, we add a fleshly nature to replace God's nature. That is adding the wrong thing to the Word of God in our lives. When we take away from love, mercy, and grace, we take away from the nature of God's characteristics and His essence expressed in His Word.

Jesus Christ is the Living Word—the written Word made flesh through the Holy Spirit. When a person takes away from giving God's love, mercy, and truth in a marriage, he takes away

from the essence of the living Word. To add anger is to add to the character of Christ something that is not from God.

Consistency in Categories

“How much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth? They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding it” (Job 4:19-20).

To stand fast on God’s foundation, we need categories of doctrine—a divine index for precise thinking from divine viewpoint—in our soul. As we begin to understand thoroughly how to establish the proper foundation, happiness comes in, joy comes in, and we are free and peaceful.

Thank God that there is no other foundation but Jesus Christ. There are 181,253 words in the New Testament, and only Christ is mentioned as our foundation. We don’t want Adam as a part-time foundation; actually, he can’t be any foundation at all. A structure built upon the flesh is like a shack that was thrown together and sure to fall. No, what we want is a magnificent, beautiful home—a finished product worth living in for years.

To build upon our foundation, we deal with old fashioned absolutes that remain purely in the Word of God. Every pattern of thinking is either absolutely right or absolutely wrong. Everything in the Word of God is absolute truth. It is final, it is permanent. As far as God goes, it is immutable and autocratic—never changing and unlimited in its authority. It produces something magnificent among individuals in the Christian church.

We, as believer-priests and ambassadors of Jesus Christ, have absolutes. If we deviate from those absolutes, we cannot have an effective impact. People will come out in great numbers to a church where the Word of God is taught in its entirety, complemented by good music and the worship of God in spirit and in truth. The principle is this: Don't replace the Word of God and categorical doctrine with opinions and emotional experiences.

Let Doctrine Govern Experience

Removing categories brings in a premise of opinions, experiences, and emotionalism. There is nothing wrong with our responsive emotions when they are responding to God's initiation. We all have had times when we have responded

to God in our emotions. Still, we never look for the experience again, because we were not looking for it in the first place.

Everything in the Word of God is an absolute. When you become born again, you are saved through the Blood of the Lamb. That is an absolute. When you are filled with the Spirit, that is an absolute. When you get baptized after you are saved, that is an absolute. Did you know that Jesus Christ walked sixty miles to get baptized? If you don't think baptism is important to the Father, then why did Jesus go that far to get baptized? It is important to God. Baptism by immersion is an identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection—a public testimony that glorifies God in our obedience to the command to be baptized after salvation.

When we were saved, we were justified freely and forever (see Romans 5:1 and 3:24). We were immediately sanctified forever. These are absolutes. We were set apart and sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ "once for all." People don't have to get saved again. They have been sanctified perfectly. We receive, love, and worship Jesus Christ. When we experience a problem, we rebound as believer-priests. None of us is perfect. Yet, we are

sanctified—the Book tells us that we are. “For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified” (Hebrews 10:14). That is an absolute.

Eternally Secure— “All Glorious Within”

Even though we have an old sin nature, God declares that there is no spot in us (Song of Solomon 4:7). We belong to the King, and we are “all glorious within” (Psalm 45:13). This is absolutely true. It is God who called us. It is He who justified us. Those He justified, He glorified (Romans 8:30). This is an absolute: in God’s eyes, we are glorified.

Absolutely, we are justified, sanctified, and glorified. Yet, because there is an old sin nature in us, we are growing every day of our lives to be more like Him. We are complete in Christ, we are mature, and we are seated above. He did it, we believe it, and that settles it. Grow in this absolute. Rebound if you fail; isolate the sin, forget it, and don’t worry about it. He took care of it.

If you don’t know and understand the absolute of eternal security, read the Bible. Study the character and nature of God. Once you begin to grasp this reality, you will be so blessed. Eternal security doesn’t give us a license to sin.

What it gives us is an ability to live in a process without being hypocritical, inwardly pretending. Remember this: If you say you have not sinned, you make God a liar. But if you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive you and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness (see 1 John 1:8-10).

Absolute Perfection

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you” (Philippians 3:14-15).

“As many as be perfect” refers to our relationship to the Finished Work in Jesus Christ. Right now, we are hid with Christ in God forever. That is an absolute. When we rebound, we are not dealing with our sins; we are acknowledging that He paid for those sins. The reason we confess our sin is to continue our fellowship with Him.

Don't continue to fail, just because you failed once. That is called “chain-sinning.” When you fail (and God forbid that you do), name it, rebound, and isolate the failure. Acknowledge

what Christ has done so that you don't have to live in guilt. Instead, grow in grace and knowledge in a process of victory through rebound.

Chapter Five
ABSOLUTES IN ACTION

“...Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy [Spirit] is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

This verse is an absolute. In our ministry, we have taken up this absolute and established nearly 140 creative outreaches to bless our local area and the communities and cities nearby. God’s promise is an absolute reality that works: We have received God’s power, and as a corporate body we have gone out with that power to serve. With us, soul winning is an absolute. Furthermore, we have purposed to send missionaries into two hundred and twenty countries. With God’s power, we will; it is just a matter of time.

A friend of mine was very ill, and when I spoke about him from the pulpit one night, I became very broken and in tears. When he heard

how broken I was, he wept. He said, "No one has ever shown so much personal concern toward me." It was precious. He was touched by absolute love while I simply identified with him in his suffering.

Loving one another is an absolute command from God; it is not something we pretend to do. Thank God, we don't compete; we love. We don't relate to each other in the flesh; we love each other. We love each other because we don't know how long we are going to have each other. We don't know at what time Satan will attack, or when God will allow something to happen in His perfect plan.

Absolutes Stand the Tests

I recently received a phone call from a single mother who was in a car that was hit by a tractor trailer. One of her daughters was killed in the crash, and the other was still in the hospital. "Oh, please say something to comfort me," she said. "Just say something to comfort me. I don't go to your church, but I do listen to your radio show. Just say anything."

At those times, you can only pray, "God help me," because the Holy Spirit must minister something specifically to bring real comfort. It

could not be just a response based on knowledge; it had to be the Holy Spirit ministering love to her.

“You must have been so very precious for God to allow this to happen to you,” I told the woman. “You have some great days ahead. I am terribly sorry about what happened. At the same time, you have been a beautiful woman who is doing a wonderful job raising your children without a husband. You are just a precious person. Don’t get discouraged; God loves you, and He will work this together for your good.”

Then, we prayed. The whole point is this: She had an absolute hope because the promises of God are absolute—even in the midst of pain, weakness, and sorrow.

The Absolutes of Eternity

Heaven is an absolute. There are people we have known who are now looking down on us through the crystal sea (Revelation 4:6). Thank God, the only death for the believer is physical death (2 Corinthians 5:8). Hell is also absolute. What motivates us in the love of God are these absolutes.

Don’t deviate from the absolutes. Let’s enjoy the rich blessings we have. Every Word of God

is pure. We have an absolute faith and an absolute prayer. We can think absolutely through grace, mercy, and love; and we can enjoy absolute victories as overcomers with a foundation from God.

If you seem to be in the worst state that anyone could be in, don't give up. You are just as precious to God as the most spiritual person on earth. Don't give up because of failure. You are so precious to the Father. This is absolutely true. God's love for us is permanent, unconditional, and unchanging.

You may be struggling and fighting some battles, let the Body of Christ fight them with you. Let others pray with you, love you, and help you. Receive these absolutes from God and be built up by them as you continue to build on an absolutely sure foundation.

CONCLUSION

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy [Spirit]: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

“I am with you always.” That is an absolute from Jesus.

“I will never, no never, never forsake thee” is another absolute.

“I will never impute sin to you, and I have no record of it” is an absolute.

“I am with you to strengthen you.” That is an absolute, too.

These are all absolutes. This is the Christ who makes us want to lift our hands toward heaven and worship Him.

Here is another absolute: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. God loves you as much as He ever will, right now. You won't ever become someone He can love any less. Oh, worship Him and thank Him.

Thank God, the Bible absolutely teaches us to grow in the grace and the knowledge of a Person, and not in works of religion. We grow in grace and knowledge. If we fail, we rebound, grow some more, and become more like Christ because of His precious power of love and the Holy Spirit. We can feel absolutely secure, not because we are better but because we know this: Jesus Christ did it all, and we are absolutely free.