

LIVING UPRIGHT IN AN UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD

#21 – BUILD ROCK SOLID

(Jesus said) Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house upon the rock.

Matthew 7:24

I. How To Build Rock Solid

- **Hear Christ's Words** – This is more than merely hearing, but _____ them. Too many hear Christ's teachings, and then forget. Christ is The Word, the way that God has most directly revealed himself, and communicated with us. We must know not only the words He spoke, but the life He lived, which fleshes out those words and gives them true meaning.
- **Put Christ's Words Into Practice** – Hearing and knowing is not enough. You need to _____ Christ's words. How you live proves what you really believe. Too many talk the talk, but don't walk the walk. They know it, but don't live it.
- **Build Your House On This Rock** – Build your life and family on the rock of Christ's teachings and Christ _____. This rock provides stability and security in an uncertain and chaotic world. Also by building on Christ as our rock, we connect to God and His blessings, guidance, and protection.

(Jesus said) The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against the house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

Matthew 7:25

II. An Advantage To Building On The Rock

- **Protection From Life's _____** – Fact: Life's storms will come to your life. There are storms of: stress, disease, disappointment, rejection, injustice, death, loneliness, doubts, accidents, loss, sorrow, suffering, and more.
- **These Storms Threaten to Destroy Your "_____"** – Your life and your family. You may be physically alive, but your life is potentially wrecked, hope and faith are lost. But believing in Jesus, plus knowing and practicing His teachings causes your house to stand. The storms may damage you, but not destroy you.

(Jesus said) But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

Matthew 7:26

III. How to Build Your House on Shifting Sand

- _____ **Jesus and His Words** – You may hear, or choose not to hear, but you choose to ignore or reject Christ's teachings.
- **Hear Jesus' Teachings, But Don't _____ Them** – You may intellectually agree with them, but you don't center your "house" on them. You don't put them into practice.
- **Build Your "House" on the Shifting Sands** – Instead you choose other priorities. _____ and beliefs to build your "house" (your life and family) on. They may be customized, or even include some Christian beliefs, but are not centered on Christ. They may be such things a humanism, deism, materialism, Eastern religions/philosophies, hedonism, careerism, even Christian religion!

(Jesus said) The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.
Matthew 7:27

IV. The Consequence of Building on Shifting Sand

- ***Your House Will Seem Safe and _____*** – When life is going smoothly, the shifting sands of unchristian priorities, philosophies, and beliefs will seem to work for you.
- ***The Storms of Life Will _____*** – No one is immune from the sudden problems and injustices of life. They hit everyone, even if you choose to believe they won't. The Katrinas are coming.
- ***Your "House" Will Fall With a Big _____*** – The question is not if, but when. Not only will your house fall, it will happen catastrophically. For those that seem to go through life and not experience storms, their perfect storm will be when they face God on Judgment Day.

Have you built your house on the Rock?

Are you ready?

Answers: I. Knowing; live; Himself. II. Storms; house. III. Ignore; practice; philosophies. IV. Secure; hit; crash.