

“IF THE FOUNDATIONS BE  
DESTROYED, WHAT SHALL  
THE RIGHTEOUS DO?”

PSALM 11:3

Part IX

*Lee Davis*

**THE DESTROYING OF THE FOUNDATIONS  
RELATING TO THE CHURCH**

**(Ephesians 4:4)**

**The One Body and One Hope**

The singular nature of the church is ridiculed and blasphemed, even by some members of the church. The oneness of the Lord’s church is as easily understood as the teaching of the one God. To set aside the teaching of the one church as being untrue is to negate the oneness of the Godhead. Many do not believe in the oneness of the faith, baptism, hope, and the church but affirm that there is but one God, one Jesus Christ, and one Holy Spirit. How can they possibly do this when the very context that affirms the latter also affirms the former? They can do so because they approach the text with pre-conceived, false views. They nullify the teaching of God because they believe and enforce their own false thinking by denying the obvious. The Bible affirms that there is one church just as much and just as effectively as it affirms the Deity of Christ. The Lord Himself teaches that there is “one fold, *and* one shepherd” (John 10:16). Did He mean it? Jesus states, “Upon this rock I will build my church” (Mat. 16:18). Did He actually mean that there would be **one** (singular) church, and that it would be His? Absolutely! In the context of Ephesians 4:4, Paul defines *body* by saying it is the “church” (Eph. 1:22-23). When the New Testament affirms that there is **one** church, it does not mean **two** or even 33,000! All of us have used the illustration of the lost child and the characteristics that must be followed to find that child. The identifying marks of the Lord’s people are clearly given in the New Testament. This basic idea has always been presented to the world by those in the churches of Christ, but now, we have some *intellectuals* among us that ridicule this very approach. They deny the New Testament’s having a pattern. Yet they have constructed their own church in their own image. They believe in a pattern—their pattern. These are the same people that go about denying logic and rational thinking by attempting to use logic and rational thinking (of course they use their own

illogic and irrationalism). If these men and women can get us to leave the proper way of interpreting the Scripture and have us accept their “new hermeneutic,” then they will have created a world of abysmal, agnosticism. This would be an age where there would be no responsibility to know *truth*. They, as Pilate, would ask: “What is Truth?” They would live in a world of continual fluctuation. That is exactly what they want to create, and, sadly, many want to have it so. Why? The fact is, with agnosticism comes *freedom*. They think they have freedom from responsibility. When there is no responsibility, then there is no guilt, because there is no sin. There is no sin, because no one can know anything about anything, except that one cannot know anything. The perpetual contradiction is their world. Men like Shelly, Cope, Harris, and Lucado have created a world without absolutes with respect to what they choose not to believe. Theirs is a sad and fatalistic world—a world which has no hope in it. The “hope of their calling” has been negated because they have rejected the very foundations that support that hope. One cannot have the hope of Ephesians 4:4 without the solid, unmovable foundation of God’s Word.

### CONCLUSION

When one destroys any of the foundations that are mentioned above, they become their own worst enemy. When a person perpetrates a little departure here and a little departure there regarding these seven ones of Ephesians 4:4-6, it will eventually lead to the destruction of the soul. The case is clearly made in the Scripture, that even though men may change, manipulate, deny, blaspheme, and refuse to obey the Word, they will not be able to destroy it. They can negate it in their lives, but they will not be able to destroy it anymore than they can destroy its Author (Mat. 24:35; John 10:35). What can the righteous do? They can know their Bible. We can know and understand the Truth (John 8:32; Eph. 5:17), and we can defend the Truth with every fiber of our being (Phi. 1:17; Jude 3). If we allow those who teach and practice error to go uncorrected, we are allowing the *little foxes* to eat away at the *foundations*. We can live the Truth in our lives (1 Tim. 4:16), teach the Truth to our children (Eph. 6:4), and teach it to faithful men who will teach others (2 Tim. 2:2). The Lord would have never commanded these things of us if it were impossible for us to comply with His will. Brethren, let us take up the Sword of the Spirit and advance to the enemy of Truth and *spare not*