

**LET  
GOD  
ARISE!**

*Like a Master Builder  
Prayer Guide #1  
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis*



**Christ as Foundation**  
Isaiah 28.16

**For Me to Live Is Christ**

*Don L. Davis*

Christ be my Anchor, and Christ be my Heart  
Christ be my Whole, and Christ be my Part  
Christ be my Glory, and Christ be my Good  
Christ my Salvation, and Christ be my Food

Christ be my Ransom, and Christ be my Gaze  
Christ be my Passion, and Christ be my Praise  
Christ be my Jewel, and Christ be my Friend,  
Christ my Beginning, and Christ be my End.

For me to live, for me to live,  
For me to live is Christ, my Lord  
For me to live, for me to live  
For me to live is Christ.

Christ be my Sov'reign, and Christ be my King  
Christ be my Worship, and Christ Ev'rything  
Christ be my Doctrine, and Christ be my Creed  
Christ be my Shelter, and Christ be my Need.

Christ be my Armor, and Christ be my Might  
Christ be my Lantern, and Christ be my Light  
Christ my Foundation, and Christ be my Stone  
Christ be my Heaven, and Christ be my Home.

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**God is our Rock, worthy of our trust and confidence**

Deut. 32.4 - The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

Deut. 3.24 - O Lord GOD, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours?

Deut. 32.31 - For their rock is not as our Rock; our enemies are by themselves.

Deut. 32.39 - See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

Ps. 18.2 - The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Ps. 71.3 - Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

1 Sam. 2.2 - There is none holy like the Lord; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

2 Sam. 22.2 - He said, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer."

Ps. 95.1 - Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Isa. 26.4 - Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.



*Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)*

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**Jesus of Nazareth is the Stone God has made the cornerstone**

Acts 4.8-12 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, [9] if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, [10] let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. [11] This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. [12] And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Isa. 28.16 - therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”

**The Stone that the builders rejected, God has made the Cornerstone**

Matt. 21.42-45 - Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? [43] Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. [44] And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” [45] When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them.

Mark 12.10-12 - Have you not read this Scripture: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; [11] this was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?” [12] And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.

Luke 20.17-18 - But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the



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cornerstone'? [18] Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

1 Pet. 2.6-8 - For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." [7] So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," [8] and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

**For the unbelieving, Christ as God's Stone is a stone of stumbling and offense**

Isa. 8.14 - And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Rom. 11.7-12 - What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, [8] as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day." [9] And David says, "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; [10] let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever." [11] So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. [12] Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

1 Pet. 2.8 - and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

Rom. 9.30-33 - What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; [31]



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but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. [32] Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, [33] as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

**We are to trust in God’s Sure Foundation, Jesus Christ, remaining rooted in him as master builders**

1 Cor. 3.10-15 - According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. [11] For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— [13] each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. [14] If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. [15] If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

Ps. 125.1-2 - Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. [2] As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.

Matt. 16.18 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Eph. 3.14-19 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, [16] that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your



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hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Col. 2.6-7 - Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, [7] rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

1 Pet. 1.5 - who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 John 2.19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

**We must equip God's people, and build on God's Foundation wisely and with discernment**

1 Kings 3.9-14 - "Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" [10] It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. [11] And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right [12] behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. [13] I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. [14] And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."



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2 Chron. 2.12 - Hiram also said, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who made heaven and earth, who has given King David a wise son, who has discretion and understanding, who will build a temple for the Lord and a royal palace for himself.”

Dan. 12.3 - And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Matt. 7.24-27 - “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. [25] And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. [26] And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. [27] And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

Matt. 24.45-51 - “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? [46] Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. [47] Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. [48] But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ [49] and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, [50] the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know [51] and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

2 Tim. 2.15 - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.



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**The Church is God's building, built on God's Sure Foundation, with Christ being the Cornerstone**

Eph. 2.19-22 - So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Matt. 10.2-4 - The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; [3] Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; [4] Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Matt. 16.18 - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jude 1.17 - But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 18.20 - Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!

2 Cor. 6.16-7.1 - What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. [17] Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, [18] and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." [7.1] Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.



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Rev. 21.14 - And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

1 Cor. 3.9-11 - For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. [10] According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. [11] For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Eph. 4.11-13 - And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

**God knows those who are his, those whom he has charged to move on to maturity**

2 Tim. 2.19 - But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

Heb. 6.1-2 - Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, [2] and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

**Let us, then, ask God to incline his ear to us, for he alone is our refuge**

Ps. 31.2-3 - Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me! [3] For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.



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Ps. 91.1-2 - He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. [2] I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Prov. 18.10 - The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. ■

### The Foundation That Is Christ

*Dr. Don L. Davis*

THIS YEAR, our theme for our spiritual formation and theological reflection concentrates on the strong and building theme (pun intended!) of Christ as our Foundation. Throughout the year we will concentrate on a critical aspect of this rich metaphor and analogy, seeking to learn what it means to both trust upon God as our Foundation and Strength, and build upon that Foundation as a master builder in the lives of others.

In his first epistle to the Corinthians, Paul describes his work of apostleship and ministry in terms of laboring in a field, and then shifts the metaphor to working on a building, that is, operating as a craftsman as he constructs a super-structure, built on a sure foundation (1 Cor. 3.9-15). Paul uses this metaphor, relating the Church and believers to a field, a temple, and a building. In describing his role and responsibility as God’s laborer on behalf of the Church, he addresses the need for Christian leaders to be “master builders,” construction workers for the Lord.

The phrase translated “wise master builder” could have easily been translated as “wise architect” (i.e., Greek, *hos sophos architekton*), and this is the only NT example of the old and common term *architekton*, from which we get our word “architect.” Its use in ancient writings speaks of a worker in wood or stone, a carpenter or mason who fashions and engineers an exquisite dwelling or place, who builds a structure that is both elegant



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and strong. Paul draws an analogy here that suggests that Christian leaders like workmen and workwomen do their ministry under the direction of God, building on the one Foundation that has been laid, the only One ever to be laid, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Not all who labor on a building do the same task, nor do they do them at the same time, nor with the same scope and impact. God himself arranges the workers, overseeing the various appointments and responsibilities, and checking carefully for his desired results that each one of his “crew” has been assigned. *God* is the architect, not Paul and the other apostles. God alone provides the gifts, lays out the blueprints, gives the increase, and holds the workers accountable for their labor. Whether our work be deemed by God to be expert, unwise, or even destructive, he alone determines the value of it, and ultimately, he holds us answerable for the caliber of our work. Each worker, as God’s appointed laborer, builds on the foundation that he himself has laid, and each effort will be accessed and rewarded in kind (cf. 1 Cor. 3.12-15).

The work of God, therefore, in evangelizing, equipping, and empowering the saints is compared to the work of a *master builder* under the direction of an overseeing architect. According to the working of God within us we are empowered to so engage in ministry that we become “master builders,” laying a foundation in the lives of others, resulting in a building that can withstand the rigors of testing. As the apostle, he laid the foundation, and others continue to build on that which has already been laid. The original Foundation, Jesus Christ, is so strong and stable that no further foundation needs to be laid or dug. All that is left is care and caution as to how we carry out the plans of the original architect. The original design and footing is superb, and all succeeding generations need only to build upon it without individual change or idiosyncrasy.



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Paul makes a claim here that everyone called to educate, disciple, and pastor others in Christ must take seriously. “For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 3.11). Of all the things that we can rely upon and look towards in leadership and saint development, nothing compares with the person of Jesus of Nazareth. With Christ as the Foundation, yes, even the Cornerstone of God’s building, we see the heart and soul of all valid and kingdom-advancing evangelical ministry. As far as spiritual formation and sanctification are concerned, there is only a single foundation that can be laid consistent with God’s design. The Lord Jesus, the true Messiah and Savior of the world, is our surest hope and ground, the strong foundation that the Church depends upon and builds upon. No other name or place is worthy as a substitute ground: no other truth, religion, or practice can serve as God’s platform or footing. “On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.”

This year we affirm and focus on Christ as our foundation, the anchor and stronghold of our lives and ministry. Each quarter we will highlight an aspect of God’s working. Here they are in turn, with their respective topics:

1. **The Foundation That Is Christ, 1 Cor. 3.10-11**
  - a. December: *Christ as Foundation*, Isa. 28.16
  - b. January: *Christ as Cornerstone*, Matt. 21.42
  - c. February: *Christ as Precious Stone*, 1 Pet. 2.6
  
2. **Built Together as a Holy Temple in the Lord, Eph. 2.20-21**
  - a. March: *Temple of the Lord*, 1 Cor. 3.16-17
  - b. April: *Dwelling of the Holy Spirit*, Eph. 2.19-22
  - c. May: *God within Our Midst*, 2 Cor. 6.16-7.1



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3. **Build Yourselves Up in Your Most Holy Faith, Jude 20-21**

- a. June: *In Your Most Holy Faith*, Jude 20-21
- b. July: *On the Word of God*, 2 Tim. 3.15-17
- c. August: *Through the Obedience of Christ*, Matt. 7.24-27

4. **Built Up as a Spiritual House to Offer Spiritual Sacrifices, 1 Pet. 2.4-10**

- a. September: *Built Up as a Spiritual House*, 1 Pet. 2.4
- b. October: *Built Up as a Holy Priesthood*, 1 Pet. 2.5
- c. November: *Built to Proclaim God's Excellencies*, 1 Pet. 2.6-10

As master builders, as those committed to God's purpose for the city and the poor, we pray each month for revival. In all we do, we strive to build on that Foundation given to us by the apostles, that Footing that no other can lay, Jesus Christ. Our Lord is not merely a milestone along the journey or an interesting landmark in the place we see. Rather, he is the goal, our very source, the literal foundation of our entire structure of spiritual formation and effective outreach and ministry.

Our challenge is clear and the call is strenuous and rigorous. We must exercise wisdom and care in all aspects of our spiritual formation and growth, and be wise and careful builders as we strive to empower and disciple others. In all we do, we will seek to learn to equip and disciple as Paul exhorts, "Let each one take care how he builds upon it" (1 Cor. 3.10b), that is, the foundation that is Jesus Christ.

As those privileged to represent the interests and purposes of Jesus in the city, let us begin this year with a burden and commitment to gain greater mastery and skill at both building on the Foundation, and apprenticing new workers who join us in our kingdom-building work. Rather than building wood, hay, and straw on the foundation, let us resolve at the beginning of this Church Year to build on the foundation with gold, silver, and precious stones—quality materials with expert craftsmanship and care, in order that,



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when the Day discloses our work, the quality of our construction will be shown for all to see.

Let us then, bring our burdens and requests before our Great Architect, the Father of glory, who has laid in Zion a Stone, Tried and Precious, a sure and certain Foundation, Jesus Christ, who himself is sufficient for us in all things. He alone is our foundation and our life, and on him alone do we build and construct that which pleases God (cf. Col. 2.6-7).

In the spirit of this grand analogy, then, let us strive to become co-workers with God in building up the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Church, that beautiful God-ordained super-structure which is built on the apostles and prophets, with Christ himself as the grand Capstone and Cornerstone (Eph. 2.19-22). Our prayer is that, as we intercede for the cities of the world, the Great Architect will bring revival to his people, new hope to the lost, and fruit that remains to your life and ministry. Yes, God has laid in Zion the very Stone which the builders rejected, the Rock that is precious and choice in the sight of God and those who believe. God has laid him in Zion for us all. ■

### **The Season of Advent and Christmas: The Foundation That Is Christ**

In the coming of Jesus the Messiah, God has laid for us the Foundation, that Stone that is tried, tested, precious, and sure.

*Isa. 28.16 - Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'"*

*Ps. 118.22-23 - The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. [23] This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.*



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### **Biblical Principle of the Month**

During this Season of Advent, we affirm that in the coming of the Child Jesus into the world, the life of the Kingdom of God was manifested. The entrance of the Child represents the fulfillment of the covenant promise to provide one who would reveal to humankind the Father's glory, redeem humanity from its sin guilt and slavery, and restore creation under the reign of God. Let us confess in our petitions throughout this month that in Zion the Foundation, the Cornerstone has been laid, that the one believing in him will never be disappointed. This is the Lord's own doing, and truly, it is marvelous in our eyes.

*Acts 4.11-12 - This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. [12] And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

*1 Cor. 3.11 - For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*



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