

**Introduction**

1. What is important in any church/denomination?
2. Possible answers: numbers / friendships / truth
3. The picture here is: building a temple

**1. THE FOUNDATION IS THE FIRST CONCERN**

- 1) v.10: the foundation must be Christ
- 2) An innocent interpretation: church members  
**OBSERVE:** This is a truth; but not the truth here
- 3) The correct interpretation: doctrine concerning Christ (Explain)
- 4) There is no church if no foundation:
  - (i) Liberal "Jesus"
  - (ii) R.C. view (Luther)
- 5) Vital aspects:
  - (i) Godhood
  - (ii) True Manhood
  - (iii) Propitiation
  - (iv) Intercession
  - (v) Coming again

**2. WHAT THE MINISTERS OF A CHURCH TEACH IS VITAL**

- 1) The illustration of a temple: the different materials used: good / poor
- 2) The meaning: the doctrines which any man preaches
- 3) Truth:
  - (i) may be mixed with error
  - (ii) only partly expressed

- (iii) fully and consistently stated:

**ILLUSTRATION**

- i. God's sovereignty + man's duty
- ii. Legalism + Antinomianism

- 4) Faithfulness varies from preacher to preacher

**APPLICATION:** Certain emphases are played down today:

- (i) reverence for God in public worship
- (ii) the biblical emphasis on sin
- (iii) the seriousness of a state of death
- (iv) the absolute necessity of a New Birth

**ILLUSTRATION:** Funeral services as "celebrations of life"  
– a new + false theology

**3. THE REASON WHY ANY PREACHER NEEDS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS TEACHING**

- 1) Every man's teaching will be tried:  
**ILLUSTRATION:** a trial by fire
- 2) On the Judgement Day
- 3) A converted preacher's experience:
  - (i) if faithful: a reward
  - (ii) if partly unfaithful: loss  
**OBSERVE:** He will be saved - but will lose some of his eternal reward  
**ILLUSTRATION:** a man whose house goes on fire – loses property, not his own life!

**CONCLUSION**

1. The way to evaluate all churches
2. And all preachers  
Pray for preachers to be kept faithful

**PSALM****119: 105 – 112****119: 140 – 144****19: 11 – 14**