

9 BUILDING ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS

REVISED CROSS-CULTURAL EDITION



TEACHING NEW BELIEVERS:
2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon and 2 Timothy
Trevor McIlwain

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PHILEMON AND 2 TIMOTHY

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Building On Firm Foundations: Volume 9: Teaching New Believers: 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon and 2 Timothy

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What is *Firm Foundations*?

Just what is *Firm Foundations*? It is foundational, chronological Bible teaching.

This method of teaching is patterned on God’s progressive revelation of Himself and His plan to rescue people from sin, Satan and death. Lessons start “*in the beginning*.” Moving through the Old and New Testaments, *Firm Foundations* highlights the themes that run through all of God’s Word. This builds, from lesson to lesson, an understanding of the Bible as a whole.

This practical approach has been used all over the world, and is proven for:

- Evangelism
- Grounding new believers
- Teaching maturing believers
- Planting churches

Firm Foundations arose from the experience of Trevor McIlwain in the 1960s. While working cross-culturally with a people group in the Philippines, Trevor saw the need to establish proper biblical foundations. He developed Bible lessons to meet that need. As Trevor states, “The Scriptures were progressively revealed by God within the context and framework of history. Therefore, the best way to teach divine truth in any culture is God’s way, within the chronological and historical framework of the Scriptures.”

Trevor shared this approach with other missionaries who were also teaching cross-culturally, initially distributing his basic outline, and later, detailed Bible lessons. They discovered, as he had, that this *Firm Foundations* approach was exceptionally effective.

When these missionaries returned home, their glowing testimonies inspired pastors and other Bible teachers to adopt this method. As a result, the *Firm Foundations* lessons were modified for churches and home Bible studies, and this approach has proven equally effective in English-speaking settings as in cross-cultural settings.

Since that time, adaptations of the *Firm Foundations* materials have been developed for many languages, cultural contexts and age groups.

You are now a part of the *Firm Foundations* legacy!

About This Curriculum

Building on Firm Foundations – Teaching New Believers: 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon, and 2 Timothy are Bible lessons by Trevor McIlwain. This book is Volume 9 in the continuing *Building on Firm Foundations* series.

Paul's letters covered in this volume are of great importance to the individual believer and to the local church and its leadership. These letters reveal the depth of Paul's spiritual life, his longings for a more intimate fellowship with Christ and his commitment to his God-given responsibility as an apostle and shepherd of the people of God. Each book will challenge and inspire believers to walk more closely with their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- 2 Corinthians is a cry from the heart of a loving and deeply concerned shepherd for a church which was still lacking in spiritual understanding and growth and in appreciation for Paul and his sufferings on their behalf.
- His letter to the Philippian believers reveals Paul's life's ambition which was to know Christ in an ever-increasing measure and to experience His resurrection power in every area of his life.
- And, maybe more clearly than any other letter, Paul's appeal to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus, the wayward but transformed slave, demonstrates a pastor's heart of love and grace.
- 2 Timothy, written by a pastor to a young pastor, challenges all members of the local church regardless of their age or sex and especially targets those who have the weighty responsibility of teaching and guiding the children of God and training others to become leaders in the church.

These lessons were written to guide missionaries step-by-step as they prepare Bible lessons in tribal languages. They were designed for teaching in a cross-cultural setting, although they can be adapted and used in any teaching situation.

Firm Foundations Materials Available

***Firm Foundations* by Trevor McIlwain [Revised Edition]** (Teacher Guides and Study Guides available)

- Books 1-5: *Creation to Christ*
- Book 6: *Secure in Christ*
- Book 7: *Growing in Christ – Acts*
- Book 8: *Growing in Christ – Romans*
- Book 9: *Growing in Christ – Ephesians*

***Building on Firm Foundations* [Revised Cross-cultural Edition]** by Trevor McIlwain

- Volume 1: *Guidelines for Evangelism and Teaching Believers*
- Volume 2: *Evangelism: Genesis to the Ascension*
- Volume 3: *Teaching New Believers: Genesis to the Ascension*
- Volume 4: *Teaching New Believers: Acts*
- Volume 5: *Teaching New Believers: Romans and Ephesians*
- Volume 6: *Teaching New Believers: 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy and Titus*
- Volume 7: *Teaching New Believers: 1 and 2 Thessalonians, Revelation*
- Volume 8: *Teaching New Believers: Galatians and Colossians*
- Volume 9: *Teaching New Believers: 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Philemon and 2 Timothy*
- Volume 10: *Teaching New Believers: Hebrews and James*
- Volume 11: *Teaching New Believers: 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Jude*
- Volume 12: *Teaching Maturing Believers: Genesis through the Epistles*

Note that the latter BOFF volumes are in the process of revision or development. Check the NTM website for availability.

Information about the above publications, along with information about translated materials, and other resources, can be found at:

Canada: ntmbooks.ca **or** email bookstore@canada.ntm.org **or** 519.369.2622

United Kingdom: ntmuk.oxatis.com **or** email books@ntm.org.uk **or** 44 (0) 1472.387700

USA: www.ntmbookstore.com **or** email books@ntm.org **or** 800.321.5375

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Part 1



The Remainder of Phase 4 of the
Chronological Teaching Program

The Remainder of Phase 4 of the Chronological Teaching Program

Phase 4 is the stage of the Chronological Teaching Program during which we teach the basic content of the Epistles – Romans to Revelation.

We initially taught selected Epistles, in order to establish key truths that address specific spiritual needs of new believers.

If you have followed the chronological teaching program as laid out in *Building on Firm Foundations*, you will have taught the Epistles outlined in the chart below. With the completion of Revelation, you will have taught the church the major doctrinal truths of the New Testament.

Overview of the first 8 books in Phase 4	
The truth which believers need to understand	Books which focus on this truth
1. The believer's position of victory in Christ	Romans Ephesians
2. The function of each member in the local church	1 Corinthians
3. The ministry of elders and deacons in the local church	1 Timothy Titus
4. God's plan and purposes for future events	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians Revelation

The Remaining Books of the New Testament

As the remaining books of the New Testament are taught, the church will be going back over the basic foundational truths you have already presented. The next six Epistles will reiterate the doctrines which you have already taught from Romans, Ephesians, 1 Corinthians, 1 Timothy, Titus, 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Revelation.

I recommend you teach these next six Epistles in the order listed below.

Correspondence of the next six Epistles with those already taught		
Main doctrinal emphasis of the book	Initial book taught covering this emphasis	Follow-up book with similar emphasis
Justification by faith apart from Law Victory over sin through deliverance from the Law and through oneness with Christ	Romans	Galatians
Complete supply of all the believer's needs in Christ.	Ephesians	Colossians
The importance of unity in the church	1 Corinthians	2 Corinthians Philippians
The responsibility of pastors to tenderly and wisely lead the flock.	1 Timothy Titus	Philemon 2 Timothy

After teaching the Epistles written by Paul, the remaining books to be taught are Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John and Jude. The order in which you teach these books will depend on the needs of the church that you are teaching.

Overview of the last 8 books in Phase 4	
The Book to Be Taught	The Main Focus of Each Book
Hebrews	Christ is superior to all. Christ is the Great High Priest, replacing the Old Testament priesthood and sacrificial system.
James	Practical Christian living which involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibiting faith, patience and endurance in trials. • Being impartial, compassionate, loving, self-controlled and sincere.
1 Peter	Encouragement for Christians who are suffering or being persecuted to follow the example of Christ who suffered on their behalf.
2 Peter	The dependability of God's Word amidst increasing apostasy and the certainty of Christ's return to judge the ungodly.
1 John	The life and love of God characterizes His children.
2 John	The importance of loving God's children and protecting the assembly of believers from false teachers.
3 John	The church's responsibility to welcome, encourage and support faithful teachers of God's Word.
Jude	The importance of upholding the truth and refusing to entertain those who deny the teachings of God's Word.

Part 2



Lessons from 2 Corinthians

Lesson

1

Paul praised God who comforted him in all his troubles and delivered him from death.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Additional Scripture: Romans 8:35-39
Ephesians 6:18

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction.
2. Paul greeted the church at Corinth. (Romans 8:35-39; 2 Corinthians 1:1-2)
3. The comfort God gave to Paul and his companions equipped them to comfort other believers. (2 Corinthians 1:3-11; Ephesians 6:18)

 **Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11.**

Lesson Outline Developed

1. Introduction.

- **The book we are about to study is named 2 Corinthians.**

It is the second letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church at Corinth.



Teacher: Ask someone to point out Corinth on the display map.

Paul first preached the Gospel in Corinth and established the church there during his second missionary journey.



Teacher: Ask someone to trace Paul's second missionary journey as far as Corinth and point out the province of Macedonia on the map.

Paul wrote his first letter to the church at Corinth when he was in Ephesus during his third missionary journey.



Teacher: Ask someone to trace Paul's third missionary journey as far as Ephesus.

- **In order to understand why Paul wrote this second letter, we need to think about his reason for writing the first time.**

He wrote his first letter, 1 Corinthians, to answer several questions he had been asked by the Corinthian believers.

Another reason he wrote that first letter was to address problems in the church in Corinth that some of the members had informed him about when they visited him in Ephesus.

One very serious problem was that one of the men in the church was living with his father's wife, and, even though his fellow believers were aware of the situation, they had done nothing about it.

However, that wasn't the only problem. Paul had been told that there were also other believers who were living sinful lives, and that the church was being taught things contrary to what Paul had previously taught them.

- **Paul had sent his first letter to Corinth with Titus, who was one of his trusted helpers.**

Paul arranged with Titus that, after he had spent some time with the Corinthians, he would return to Troas and inform Paul about how the Corinthians had reacted to his letter.



Teacher: Trace the route that Titus would have taken from Corinth up through Macedonia to Troas.