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BASIC, BASICS, FUNDAMENTAL, FUNDAMENTALLY, RUDIMENTS

Ephron knew that Abraham was looking for a place to bury his dead wife, but he didn't care. He showed Abraham no compassion or mercy, or even any **basic** fairness. (He forced Abraham to buy far more land than he wanted, and he charged a ridiculous price for it. Abraham only wanted a cave, not a field and a bunch of trees.)

- **Genesis 23:4, 9, 15-17:** "I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a buryingplace with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight. ... That he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he hath, which is in the end of his field; for as much money as it is worth he shall give it me for a possession of a buryingplace amongst you. ... My lord, hearken unto me: the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver; what is that betwixt me and thee? bury therefore thy dead. And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant. And the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field, and the cave which was therein, and all the trees that were in the field, that were in all the borders round about, were made sure"

David **fundamentally** rejected the idea that he had a responsibility to bring evildoers to justice and protect the innocent. Instead his lifelong approach was to do nothing and let God handle it. (This was a serious violation of the responsibility that God gave to rulers, dating all the way back

to the days of Noah.) David did much more than just refuse to do anything about Saul (who was guilty of *genocide*). He also refused to punish Amnon for raping Tamar (who was *David's own daughter*), or Joab for murdering Abner. Even after Absalom publicly raped ten of David's concubines he *still* didn't want Absalom to be harmed.

- **1 Samuel 24:13:** "As saith the proverb of the ancients, Wickedness proceedeth from the wicked: but mine hand shall not be upon thee."

It's **fundamentally** unsatisfying to spend our lives building something, only to leave it to someone else who did nothing to create it.

- **Ecclesiastes 2:21:** "For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is vanity and a great evil."

Corn is said to *wither*, not die. This indicates that the death of an animal or person is **fundamentally** different from the loss of a plant. (The Bible consistently teaches that plants *wither* and people and animals *die*. This is because plants don't have what the Bible calls the "breath of life" in them.)

- **Joel 1:17:** "The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered."

It's wrong to not love those who love us. Loving those who love us is such a **basic** thing that even *the wicked* are expected to do it.

- **Matthew 5:46:** "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?"
- **Luke 6:32:** "For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinner also love those that love them."

There's a **basic** expectation that we ought to do good to those who do good to us.

- **Luke 6:33:** "And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinner also do even the same."

There's a **basic** expectation that we ought to repay that which we borrowed.

- **Luke 6:34:** "And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinner also lend to sinners, to receive as much again."

The most **basic** necessities of life are food and clothing.

- **Luke 12:22:** "And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on."

God doesn't want us to worry about where we'll get the **basic** necessities of life (such as food and drink). The Lord knows that we need them.

- **Luke 12:29-30:** "And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all

these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things."

God is the one who provides us with the **basic** necessities of life. If we seek Him then He will provide them for us.

- **Luke 12:22, 31:** "And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. ... But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Obedying God isn't worthy of praise. Instead it's our **basic** duty.

- **Luke 17:9-10:** "Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."

Christians are **fundamentally** different from those who aren't saved. We've been transformed and freed from sin. Not only are we justified in God's sight, but we're also dead to sin. Because of this transformation we can walk in God's ways.

- **Romans 6:5-7:** "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin."

The way that Christians live their lives (by walking in the Spirit) is **fundamentally** different from the lost, who walk after the flesh. (This is because the lost lack the Holy Spirit and therefore *can't* walk in Him.)

- **Romans 8:4-5:** "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Christians have **fundamentally** different desires than the lost. Those who are lost desire the things of this world, but those who are saved desire the things of the Spirit.

- **Romans 8:5:** "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."

The cross of Christ is **fundamentally** at odds with the wisdom of this world.

- **1 Corinthians 1:20:** "Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

The wisdom of men is **fundamentally** incompatible with the divine revelation of God.

- **1 Corinthians 2:13:** "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

There were times when the apostles lacked even the **basic**

necessities of life.

- **1 Corinthians 4:11:** "Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace;"
- **2 Corinthians 11:27:** "In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness."

When God took a rib out of Adam to form Eve, He was establishing a **fundamental** principle about the nature of women.

- **1 Corinthians 11:8:** "For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man."

A society that accepts men with long hair is rejecting a **fundamental** and obvious truth.

- **1 Corinthians 11:14:** "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?"

There's a **fundamental** difference between the seed and the plant that comes out of the seed.

- **1 Corinthians 15:37:** "And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:"

Our body will be **fundamentally** different after the resurrection of the dead (which will take place at the rapture). The Lord Jesus Christ will change us in an enormous way.

- **1 Corinthians 15:42-44:** "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

There's a **fundamental** difference in nature between who we are now, and who we will be after the resurrection of the dead. Currently we're made of the earth and are earthy, but after the resurrection we'll be made of heaven and will be heavenly.

- **1 Corinthians 15:48-49, 53:** "As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. ... For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

Christians are **fundamentally** different from those who aren't Christians. (Since this is true, we must pursue God's will and obey His commandments. We must live according to the new nature that God has given us.)

- **2 Corinthians 5:17:** "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."
- **1 Thessalonians 5:5:** "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness."
- **1 John 3:1:** "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of

God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

There may be times when it's God's will for us to lack even the most **basic** necessities of life.

- **2 Corinthians 11:27**: "In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness."

The traditions of men and the **rudiments** (principles) of this world are the enemy of the gospel.

- **Colossians 2:8**: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Christians are dead in Christ. That means we're dead to the **rudiments** (principles) of the world.

- **Colossians 2:20**: "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,"

Paul wasn't satisfied with a church that got the **basics** right, but which neglected other things in the name of pragmatism. Instead he commanded churches to be perfect in *all* things and neglect nothing.

- **Colossians 4:12**: "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

The standard for a church leader aren't goals that people should strive to meet. Instead they're the **basic** requirements for being a church leader. Those who don't measure up to these goals are disqualified from leadership.

- **Titus 1:5-6:** "For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly."

Paul didn't teach that churches should only teach the most **basic** truths in order to maximize outreach. Instead he taught that those who were in error should be sharply rebuked.

- **Titus 1:13:** "This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;"

Jesus is **fundamentally** different from the angels.

- **Hebrews 1:7-8:** "And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom."

Christians who don't understand the **basic** doctrines of the Bible aren't in a position to learn anything more advanced. (People must learn the basics before they can go beyond them.)

- **Hebrews 5:11-13:** "Of whom we have many things to say,

and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe."

The recipients of the book of Hebrews were "dull of hearing". They didn't even know the **basics** of Christianity.

- **Hebrews 5:11:** "Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing."

The recipients of the book of Hebrews had apparently been Christians for some time. Its author expected them to already know the **basics**, and yet they didn't.

- **Hebrews 5:12:** "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."

The **basic** principles of Christianity are salvation by faith, faith in God, water baptism and baptism of the Spirit, the apostolic gifts, the rapture, and the eternal judgment. All Christians should know these things, because they represent basic principles and are considered to be "milk". Christians who don't know these things are still at the "milk" level and are spiritually immature.

- **Hebrews 6:1-2:** "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying

again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."

Peter expected the church to already know all of the things he talked about in his second letter. He expected end times prophecy to be **basic** knowledge.

- **2 Peter 3:10, 17:** "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ... Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness."

In the end times, wealth is measured by **basic** commodities. Merchants are selling raw materials, not advanced machinery. (This is more evidence that modern technology doesn't exist in the tribulation era.)

- **Revelation 18:11-13:** "And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and

slaves, and souls of men."

PRIMITIVE

Medical care in the ancient world was incredibly **primitive**. (When David had circulation problems at the end of his life and couldn't get warm, the only treatment his advisors suggested was marrying another wife.)

- **1 Kings 1:1-2:** "Now king David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat. Wherefore his servants said unto him, Let there be sought for my lord the king a young virgin: and let her stand before the king, and let her cherish him, and let her lie in thy bosom, that my lord the king may get heat."

The battle will take place when the Lord Jesus Christ returns (at the end of the tribulation) will happen in a world that doesn't have modern technology. The Jews will fight using stones, which are very **primitive** weapons.

- **Zechariah 9:14-15:** "And the Lord shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning: and the Lord God shall blow the trumpet, and shall go with whirlwinds of the south. The LORD of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, and make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar."

Since the great and wealthy end-times city of Babylon is lit by candles, this is more evidence that modern technology doesn't exist in those days. The most powerful city in the tribulation era is lit by **primitive** candles instead of electric lighting. (On top of that, it uses *millstones* to grind grain instead of

machinery.)

- **Revelation 18:21-23:** "And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived."