

08.25.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Putting Them Into Practice”

Scripture Reading: [Matthew 7:24-29](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

Look at this picture.



Pastor Doug shared this photo during his message on Sunday.

Take some time to look at this photo. What do you notice in this picture?

Like Pastor mentioned in his sermon, this picture was taken in 2018 after hurricane Michael struck the Florida panhandle. Hurricane Michael was the most powerful storm to make landfall in this area.

As you look at all the devastation from the storm captured in the picture, your eyes also notice the white house in the middle, apparently unscathed.

How can so many houses be destroyed while one survives intact during the same storm?

The answer is the foundation and materials used during its construction.

New York Times reporter, Patricia Mazzei, learned [during her interview](#) with Dr. Lackey and Mr. King (the co-owners of the white house in the photo) that “...they built the sand palace to withstand 250 mile-an-hour winds. The house was fashioned from poured concrete, reinforced by steel cables and rebar, with additional concrete bolstering the corners of the house. The space under the roof was minimized so that wind could not sneak in underneath and lift it off. The home’s elevation, on high pilings (40-foot pilings buried into the ground), was meant to keep it above the surge of seawater that usually accompanies powerful hurricanes.”

While they built this house, Dr. Lackey and Mr. King used (put into practice) materials and building practices that went above and beyond local building codes and hurricane specifications for foundations and building materials. Practices that had a cost to them. “Their architect, Charles A. Gaskin, said that building a house the way they did roughly doubles the cost per square foot, compared with ordinary building practices.”

What was the result of the choices they made during construction and ‘putting into practice’ a foundation, materials, and construction design that went about and beyond the building code recommendations?

In our text for this week (and the texts throughout this entire summer sermon series My Heart Christ’s Home), Jesus calls out to each one of us to examine what we are and what we are not putting into practice when it comes to the construction of our hearts and lives. Jesus calls out to each one of us to examine thoroughly what we are building our lives upon. Each day, we have choices to make about who we are going to listen to and what we are going to put into practice as well as choices about who we are not going to listen to and what we are not going to put into practice. Choices that have a cost to them.

Listen again to Jesus’ words about these choices.

“²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” (NIV)

“²⁴ “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.” (NLT)

²⁴⁻²⁵ “These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock. ²⁶⁻²⁷ “But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don’t work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards.” (The Message)

When it comes to your heart and life, what are you putting into practice?

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for giving us the words of life. Thank you for being a rock, a firm foundation on which we can build our lives upon. Spirit of God, enable us to put into practice these words of life. AMEN.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Take note this week of whose words you are listening to the most.

When the radio is on, who or what are you listening to? When the TV is on, who or what are you listening to? When the phone is on, who or what are you listening to? When the computer is on, who or what are you listening to?

Take note this week of when and how often you listening to Jesus' words each week.

What did you notice about who you are listening to?

Songs for today:

[My Hope Is Built](#)

[Don't Build Your House on the Sandy Land](#)

[Build My Life](#)