

## ***New Beginnings***

Five years ago Sandy and I did something we had never done before... we built a house! I had a LOT to learn and I had a lot of help, relatives, friends, sub-contractors, all a bit overwhelming.

One thing that became more obvious than ever: a new beginning needs a good foundation! We consulted with experienced contractors from a number of crafts and, of course, first things first.

ONE: We dig. We dug and dug, dirt, rocks (a lot of *solid rock!*). My excavator quipped that we would have a biblical house – built on solid rock, not sand. Eight feet of solid rock later, we had place for a foundation. Then concrete, steel, forms, and a lot of sweat later, we had a place to build a home.

Then it hit me – God’s family is much the same.

**-First:** you dig... into His word, for truth, knowledge and wisdom. We dig in the word for everything that God has supplied **“everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him called us by His own glory and excellence.”**

– II Peter 1:3, NASB

**Second:** you build a foundation on what you dug. I was amazed at how quickly the framing went up, once we had dug and set the foundation. It’s the same with any new endeavor – especially spiritual ones. If you dig in the right place, and lay a foundation that is proper and strong, the house you build is square and strong.

There is always much work to do with any new beginning... and we must do our part well. But here the analogy begins to break down. Why? God tells us that in reality, in His work, in I Corinthians 3:11, the Holy Spirit tells Paul to remind us that, “...no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. He must be our foundation and our only one, or our work will be deeply flawed.

And the house itself? God’s word through David’s pen is clear in Psalm 127:1,  
“Unless the Lord builds the house,  
They labor in vain who build it.”

We carry the bricks, but the Lord, Himself, lays them. We hold the paint brush, but Jesus is the paint that covers our lives and makes our family beautiful. We hold the scrub brush, but Jesus himself scrubs his house clean with forgiveness. And never forget that the church is the household of God, the pillar and support of the truth! – I Timothy 3:15, NASB.

As we begin our new endeavor, we must ever remember to keep Jesus on the throne of our hearts and at the center of everything we do.

In His love,  
Ray Wallace