

# “Convinced!”

*The Rev. Dr. Robert M. Zanicky*

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*First Presbyterian Church  
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Luke 6:46-49; Romans 8:38-39*

Well. Did you watch?

Did you see it?

- No not the swapping of American and Russian spies.
- Not Wednesday's World Cup Soccer between Germany and Spain (Spain won).
- Not Mel Gibson's rant...(skip that!).

Were you watching ESPN on Thursday night? Millions were glued to their TVs – anxiously waiting, impatiently watching, and restlessly waiting to hear from his own mouth – where LeBron James would be playing basketball.

Wow! He's leaving Ohio and bouncing down to Florida!

Considered one of the greats of basketball, LeBron thrilled many and angered many (especially those in Cleveland) with his announcement.

What excitement!

What pathos!

Actually, I was watching C-Span2, but I read about this cultural phenom afterward. Most of you know the depth of commitment I have for sports – unparalleled!

But, my interest was piqued when I heard that LeBron's live T.V. announcement would mean over 2.5 million dollars to the “Boys and Girls Club of America”. I don't know, nor do I follow basketball, but his generosity is exemplary!

From what I've read, LeBron, probably over a long period of time, became convinced that his move to the Miami Heat team was the thing to do. His conviction to leave Cleveland has cost him at least 30 million dollars. Call him crazy, I don't know. But he was convinced to make this move, no matter what, and in doing it in a big way via ESPN the Boys and Girls Club of America is 2.5 million dollars ahead to help our children.

Now, getting personal. Are you easy or hard to convince? “It depends”, is probably how most respond to such a question. O.K., consider what are you “convinced” about in life, in your life? As I share with you this morning – ponder – “what am I convinced about?” Say to yourself “I am convinced that...?” (Fill in the rest). Convinced about; life, work, Government, marriage, children, morality, money, relationship, and more.

Allow me to push you further.

I want you to consider a fundamental human issue, this morning. That issue is – to what degree are you convinced – in having the Gospel, the “Good News” of Christ – as your foundation in life? What is your

foundation for your life? What is the bedrock of your belief system? What guides you in your daily decisions? Of what are you convinced?!

I know we live in an era, a culture where so much seems “it’s all up for grabs,” where there really isn’t a foundation to stand secure on. But...something is under-girding you, your thinking and actions. There is something there. It may not be all that solid, it may be shifting, but it’s there!

Perhaps it could be a better, firmer foundation! Of that, I am convinced!! And I hope, if you are not yet convinced, you will enter the discussion, and be open to persuasion, in your own heart and mind. I’m talking about a way of life! A firm foundation in how to live! We need a firm foundation!

They knew this even back in Jesus’ time. Jesus knew this! Jesus had something to say to those who disregarded this “reality” in life! Jesus shares: Those of you who pay attention to this fundamental rule of life – concerned about a solid foundation, are like a man building a house.

This fellow knows what he is doing! He digs deep. He lays the foundation on solid rock! A great footer! Stability is ensured!

No matter what happens, when floods come, when the stream breaks loose and hits the house, it is not shaken! Why? Because it has been well built on a solid foundation! Whatever hits against this house will not destabilize it! It is firm, secure!

Nevertheless – there are those who ignore the rules of life, the rules of reality. These people are like the man who built his house on ground without a foundation; nothing undergirding it – securing it for the future. And – once the stream broke, it was all over. Immediately the house fell, and the ruin was great!

Either build your home on a rock solid foundation, or don’t. The consequences - follow!

Of course Jesus isn’t talking to engineers, craftsmen, and masons – giving them the “House building hints 101 lecture.” No. He is talking to human beings; he is talking to us – to you and me, about building our lives on a solid foundation to secure us from the elements that will beat against us.

So the search is on. What foundation will secure and guide your life? Money? Fame? Entertainment? Job? What foundation? (P.S. you know me well enough to know none of these are inherently bad or negative, but they are not enough!)

This foundation goes very deep, very deep!!! To the soul, the spirit.

Friends, we need to find what will answer” our longing lives, our searching souls. We need a solid foundation to live on. That will guide us in our moral/ethical decisions. That will give us a sense of wholeness.

Which brings me to some of the most inspiring and powerful scriptures we are blessed to possess, Romans 8:38-39! Paul has gone through a litany of horrors, problems, and catastrophes in his life and the life of his Christian brothers and sisters, and yet he declares, in spite of all his and their problems, they are “winners,” “conquerors” through Christ!

Paul declares, standing on the firm foundation of Christ and Christ’s teachings, what we desperately (you and I) need to declare in 2010.

For I am convinced! This is faith filled! It flies in the face of a closed, limited, uncaring universe and it supplies a vision of what it means to be a human being!

For I am convinced! This isn't irrational, infantile! It is directed and determined. Nuances follow.

For I am convinced... Yes, this is the way I'm going to live! Through the living God, as revealed in Christ to Christians!

I need a foundation!  
You need a foundation!

For I am persuaded... that life has meaning and purpose...

Once again hear the testimony of one who journeyed through life seeking a foundation, and by God's grace found it...

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What a way to live! So be it – in your life!

Amen