Softening Of Fundamentals

Intro: A profession football coach started his tenure by addressing his team with the statement, “This is a football.” By this he intended to return the team to the fundamentals of football. He knew that only by paying attention to the fundamentals can a team be successful. For the Lord’s church to be successful; it, likewise, must pay attention to the fundament. What do we mean by these terms? **Fundamental** is defined as: “serving as the foundation; connected with the foundations, going to the root of things; hence, essential, of primary importance, serving as the necessary starting-point...Essential, basal principle, rule” **Softening** is defined as: “process of becoming milder, or relenting, of becoming less harsh, stern etc.” Simply to examine the state of the church today shows that we have softened on the fundamentals. Let us consider some areas where we have softened.

I. **Evidence Of Softening.**
   A. **Ignorance of members.**
      1. Bible Classes.
         a. Much of the material used today is from denominations.
         b. Much of the teaching is about social ills.
      2. There is no emphasis in the home about the Bible.
   B. **Prevalence of False Doctrine.**

II. **Reasons For Softening.**
   A. **Heard it too many times; preach on something different.**
      1. Illustration: during gospel meetings, don’t preach on the sin of using instrumental music, we all know it.
      2. 2 Pet. 1:12-15 “Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. 13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; 14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. 15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.”
      3. 2 Pet. 3:1-2 “This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:”
   B. **Desire for something new.**
      1. Advertisers use the term new to sell their products.
      2. People want things that are new, not old; Acts 17:21 “(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)”
   C. **Desire to be popular.**
      1. We are to be different from the world.
         a. Rom. 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
         b. This means we will not be popular.
      2. 1 Pet. 4:4 “Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:”
   D. **Desire for numbers.**
      1. There is a proper concern for numbers; they represent souls.
      2. It is wrong to seek numbers for numbers sake.
      3. Christ taught we would be in the minority; Mat. 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go
Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

E. Getting away from gospel meetings to holding seminars.
1. Seminars on social concerns: money, grief, death, etc.
2. Gospel meetings have gotten shorter.

III. SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.
A. Strong eldership.
1. They oversee; including the teaching program.
2. Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
3. 1 Pet. 5:2 “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”

B. Strong, plain preaching and teaching.

IV. BASED UPON OUR PREACHING AND TEACHING.
A. Christianity is a taught religion.
1. John 6:44-45 “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”
2. Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

B. When we get away from preaching the fundamentals is when we begin softening.
1. We are to preach the Word.
   a. 2 Tim. 4:1-4 “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”
   b. 1 Cor. 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

2. We must be bold in our proclamation of the truth.
   a. Acts 4:29 “And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,”
   b. Eph. 6:19 “And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,”

V. DOCTRINAL ISSUES.
A. God
1. His existence
   a. Many just hope that God exists.
   b. We must know, based upon the evidence that God is.
      (1) Cosmological Argument.
         (a) For every effect there must be sufficient or adequate cause.
(b) Put in argument form: If a contingent being exists, then the absolute necessary being (God) exists; I (a contingent being) exist; therefore, God exists.

2. Teleological Argument.
   (a) The marvelous design (hand, eye, etc.) involved in these can only be explained in light of a designer (God).
   (b) Put in argument form there is a deduction from order and adjustment to design, and in turn, from design to Designer (God). Since it is quite obvious that order and adjustment do exist, it is equally clear that God exists.

3. Moral Argument
   (a) There does exist such a thing as outside, objective, moral law; there is moral law beyond (greater than) international law.
   (b) This is deduction from the objectivity of right and wrong to the ultimate Good (God) by which real right and wrong are determined.

c. The only other alternative is evolution which is contrary to science and makes man nothing more than an animal.

2. His nature
   a. Many view that God is only a God of love, kindness, goodness, etc.
   b. God is a holy being.
      (1) Psa. 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverent is his name.”
      (2) Isa. 6:3 “And one [seraphim] cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”
      (3) Rev. 4:8 “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”
   c. God is a righteous being.
      (1) Psa. 145:17 “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.”
      (2) 1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”
      (3) Gen. 18:25 “That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”
         (a) God will always do right.
         (b) His righteousness demands that He punish sin.
   d. God is also a God of vengeance.
      (1) Mat. 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”
      (2) Heb. 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
      (3) Heb. 12:29 “For our God is a consuming fire.”
      (4) 2 The. 1:6 “Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;”

3. The Holy Spirit
   a. The indwelling should never be a matter of fellowship.
b. We must recognize that the only way the Spirit works on the human heart is through the Word; Eph. 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"

c. Recognize the cessation of miracles.
(1) There is no need for miracles today. Miracles were for:
   (a) Revelation
   (b) Inspiration
   (c) Confirmation
(2) 1 Cor. 13:8-10 “Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”

B. The Bible
1. Its nature
   a. It is the Word of God
      (1) Gal. 1:11-12 “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
      (2) 1 The. 2:13 “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”
      (3) 1 Cor. 2:12-13 “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 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.”
   b. It is our sole authority in religion
      (1) 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
      (2) It will judge us in the last day; Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

2. We must respect it.
   a. General teaching.
      (1) Think; 1 Cor. 4:6 “And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.”
      (2) Speak; 1 Pet. 4:11 “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
      (3) Actions; 1 Cor. 1:10 “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”
   b. Do not change it.
      (1) Gal. 1:6-9 “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 8 Which is not another; but there be some
that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an
angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have
preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again,
If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him
be accursed.”

(2) 2 John 9 “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ,
hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father
and the Son.”

(3) Rev. 22:18-19 “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the
prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto
him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away
from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of
the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in
this book.”

3. Our study and knowledge of it.
a. 2 Tim. 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to
be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
b. Psa. 1:2 “But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day
and night.”
c. Psa. 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

C. The Church
1. Its distinctive nature.
a. There is only one church.
   (1) Eph. 4:4 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope
of your calling;”
   (2) Rom. 12:4-5 “For as we have many members in one body, and all members
have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every
one members one of another.”
   (3) The Bible identifies the body as the church; Eph. 1:22-23 “And hath
put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to
the church,” 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

b. The church does not need to be restored.
   (1) Some are claiming that restoration is an ongoing process.
   (2) If the church has not been restored then we are not a part of the

c. This one church that has been restored is the church of Christ; Rom. 16:16
“Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.”

2. Its plan of salvation.
a. We have always had to fight denominational ideas; but now instead of
fighting them, many have joined them.
b. Salvation is not by grace only or faith only (play Max Lucado tape)
c. God’s plan.
   (1) One must be presented the proper evidence leading one to believe.
      (a) Faith is not given to us by God in some miraculous way, nor
a leap in the dark.
      (b) Rom. 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the
word of God.”
      (c) Heb. 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that
cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them
that diligently seek him.”
(2) One must repent; Acts 17:30 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”

(3) One must confess his faith in Christ; Rom. 10:10 “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

(4) One must be baptized in water for the remission of sins; Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

3. Its work.
   a. Denominationalism moved to being more a social organization; sadly many congregations have allied themselves with denominations in this.
   b. The work of the church is spiritual.
      (1) John 18:36 “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”
      (2) It is manifest in three areas.
         (a) Preaching to the lost.; Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
         (b) Edifying the saved; Eph. 4:12-13 “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”
         (c) Benevolence; Gal. 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

4. Its organization.
   a. Society’s rebellion against authority has also affected the church.
   b. Christ is the head of the church.
      (1) He has all authority.
      (2) Mat. 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
      (3) Eph. 1:21-23 “Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   c. Christ set elders within the local congregation to oversee the congregation.
      (1) Acts 20:28 “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
      (2) 1 Pet. 5:2 “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”
   d. We are to obey, submit, to those elders; Heb. 13:17 “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”

5. Its Worship.
   a. Many have made worship a time for entertainment and pleasing of self.
   b. Worship is a giving praise and adoration to God.
c. John 4:23-24 “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

(1) Directed to the Father
(2) Done with the proper attitude
(3) Done according to God’s instructions.

d. God has authorized five avenues of worship to Him.

(1) Singing; Eph. 5:19 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”
(2) Prayer; 1 Cor. 14:15 “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.”
(3) Contribution; 1 Cor. 16:1-2 “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.”
(4) Preaching; Acts 2:42 “And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”
(5) Lord’s Supper; Acts 20:7 “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”

VI. MORAL ISSUES.
A. Negatively
1. Immorality

a. Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

(1) God established one man for one woman for life.
(a) Gen. 2:24 “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”
(b) Homosexuality is sinful; Lev. 18:22 “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”

(2) There is one and only one exception; Mat. 19:9 “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”

b. Premarital and extramarital sex (fornication); Gal. 5:19-21 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulation, wraths, strife, seditions, heresies, Envysings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

2. Immodesty; 1 Tim. 2:9-10 “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”

3. Worldliness

a. Drinking and Drugs

(1) The Bible clearly condemns drunkenness.
(2) The Bible’s injunction is to soberness or soundness of mind; Tit. 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
b. **Tobacco**
   
   (1) We are to be good stewards of what God has given us; 1 Pet. 4:10
   
   “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”
   
   (2) This includes our bodies; 1 Cor. 6:19-20 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
   
   (3) Tobacco destroys the body.

   c. **Dancing**; Gal. 5:19-21 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”
   
   (a) *Lasciviousness* means lust but is defined by Thayer’s as “indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females” which describes the dance.
   
   (b) *Revellings* is used of feast and drinking parties; a carousing or to indulge freely in.
   
   (c) And such like would also forbid dancing.

   d. **Impure language**
   
   (1) Vulgarity and gutter language
   
   (a) We are to hold God’s name in reverence.
   
   (b) Eph. 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”
   
   (2) Lying; Eph. 4:25 “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

   e. **Pornography**
   
   (1) Promotes the degradation of men and women (that we are nothing more than toys to be used for the pleasure of another).

   (2) The Bible teaches purity of heart.

   f. **Gambling; Love of money**
   
   (1) Violates many principles of the Bible (work, slothfulness, stewardship, etc.)

   (2) 1 Tim. 6:10 “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

4. **Hatred, Emulations [Jealousies—ASV], Wrath, Strife, etc.**

   a. Gal. 5:19-21 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

   b. Rom. 1:29-31 “Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate [strife—ASV], deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:”

   c. Tit. 3:3 “For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.”
d. Jam. 3:14-15 “But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.”

B. Positively
1. Many think that Christianity is simply made up of “not’s,” do not do this, do not do that.
   a. As long as I do not live immoral, I will go to heaven.
   b. Christianity is also a positive religion, we must do certain things to be pleasing to God.

2. Proper attitudes
   a. We are what we think.
      (1) Pro. 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”
      (2) Mat. 15:10-11, 16-19 “And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: 11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. ... 16 And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? 17 Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:”
   b. Phi. 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
   c. Have the mind of Christ; Phi. 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus;”

3. Proper actions
   a. Tit. 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;”
   b. Doing good to all; Gal. 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”
   c. Showing mercy to others.
      (1) Mat. 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”
      (2) Jam. 2:13 “For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.”
   d. Serving others.
      (1) Mat. 20:28 “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
      (2) The example of humility and service to others by Jesus in washing His disciples feet; John 13 (esp. 14-15 “If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.”)
   e. Practicing the “golden rule;” Mat. 7:12 “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”
   f. Loving our neighbor as our self.
      (1) Mat. 22:37-40 “Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”
(2) Jam. 2:8 “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well;”

g.  
Mat. 25:31-46 “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungry, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungry, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungry, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 ‘Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

h. Preaching the gospel to the lost.

(1)  
Mat. 28:19-20 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

(2)  
Mark 16:15-16 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

Conclusion: While we must continue to grow in our knowledge of God and His Word, we must never forget the basics, the fundamentals.