***Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.***

Last week, we talked about being in agreement with God, being acquainted with Him through His Word, through meditation, and seeking Him that we might find undeserved favor. We realized that we cannot agree with God unless we are seeking to have a singularity of purpose with Him, His Son, and His Holy Spirit – that singular purpose must be living out our witness for Jesus Christ and communicating the Gospel at every opportunity. We never know what this opportunity might look like: a kind word for the hurting, a helping hand to someone fallen on hard times, an encouraging note to a friend. Hebrews 13:2 - *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.* Too often, we stand waiting for the heavens to part, the angels to sing, while the angel we were to unwittingly entertain slips silently away.

Our scripture this morning is from Jeremiah. He is commonly known as the weeping prophet. Jeremiah was brokenhearted for God’s people. He sees the way that they’ve turned from God, pursued their own interests, lied and cheated one another. Jeremiah knew that the knowledge of God, the acknowledgement of God, and the blessings of God can not be separated. No people can expect the blessings of God while rebelling against God. It was true in Jeremiah’s day… and it is true today. God had revealed in visions to Jeremiah how the people would suffer, be killed by the Babylonians, led into captivity, and mourn what they’ve taken for granted. Yet, for all of his efforts, his skillful preaching, his open sacrifice, and powerful witness, the people refused to hear Jeremiah. Likewise, people refuse to hear the Truth today. In Romans 1:28, Paul says this - *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting*. We mustn’t fool ourselves. Unrepented sin leads to greater unrepented sin.

Verse 23 says *Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches****.*** Thus says the Lord. God is speaking directly through Jeremiah. God pinpoints three pitfalls of pride that challenge us all. Well did John speak of the lust of the eye, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Wisdom – meaning our capabilities, knowledge, skills, talents. Might – meaning our strength or courage. Riches – meaning wealth. Let us not glory, boast, brag, be prideful about those things which the Grace of God has provided. My father used to love a saying, “There, but for the Grace of God, go I.” None can boast. So many glory in the vapor, the vanity, that so tempts this world: beauty that fades, strength that faints, wisdom that falters, and riches that fail. It’s little wonder that our society suffers despair when we come to depend on that which can never fulfill.

Verse 24 – Jeremiah redirects his people to the One Foundation that never fades, faints, falters, or fails. The God that is all fulfilling and ever Faithful. *But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgement, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.* Glory is found only in our reverence and thankfulness for the blessing of knowing and having access to God. Proverbs 9:10 says - *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.* When God says - Understands and knows me – this is not an emotional, ooey gooey feeling. Our society has deserted logic and understanding in favor of emotion. Jeremiah was seeing the same lack of logic and understanding in his people. Had they had understanding they would have been turning from their sin as Nineveh did in the days of Jonah. But they were high on the moment, sacrificing eternity for the temporary. They indeed were redecorating the Motel 6 while forgetting their Mansion eternal, as do we so often today.

How do we understand and know God? Through study of His Word. Meditation and prayer, seeking God to become acquainted with Him, as we talked about last week. It’s highly improbable that we truly know and understand that which we invest no time in. God is telling Jeremiah – he who is truly blessed is he that chose to truly invest.

Exercising lovingkindness, kindness and favor; judgement, perfect justice; and righteousness, moral rightness, as only God can perfectly exercise. In these God delights… therefore, we must delight in these as well.

This week, let’s examine where our foundation is. Is it in beauty, wisdom, might, or riches? Is it in some other crumbling earthly construct that will pass as a vapor, as tenuous as our breath on a cool autumn morning? Or are we founded on the Rock named Jesus, finding our wisdom, might, and riches in knowing and understanding our Creator? Where we spend our time, our talents, and our money tells the tale. May we find our Foundation in the Rock of Ages, in the knowledge and understanding of our God, through our relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.