

LESSON 01

Foundations Curriculum

The Counsel of God

By Edmar Ferreira

Introduction

The Counsel of God

Foundations Curriculum is a teaching program formed by the apostolic council of the church, under the responsibility of pastors Marcos Moraes, Vanjo Souza, Edmar Ferreira, João Bium, Manoel Rocha, and Mário Fagundes.

The program uses various platforms and media to disseminate the foundational teaching of the Word of God in a consistent manner to the whole church.

For each lesson, there are corresponding videos, audio recordings, and written texts — all indexed by the same number.

The Foundations Curriculum has a website: www.fundamentos.me. All lessons and media produced and made available will be found there.

Questions and requests may be submitted by email to contato@fundamentos.me.

In this opening lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we will present introductory content to orient the church concerning the certainty of the counsel of God for our lives.

Psalm 139 shows the psalmist's effort to share something of the breadth of the thoughts of our Lord.

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!

How great is the sum of them!

If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;

When I awake, I am still with You.

Psalm 139:17–18 (NKJV)

1) The Counsel of God

What do you understand by “counsel”? When someone asks you for counsel, what does that mean?

To speak of “the counsel of God” means to perceive the breadth of God’s thoughts. How many thoughts flood the mind of our Creator?

According to Psalm 139:17–18, it would be like trying to count the grains of sand on the shore. Does that analogy seem possible? It is a beautiful attempt to help us see the greatness of our God’s thoughts.

All who are converted to Christ become part of the family of God. And our challenge, as Christians on the journey, lies in grasping this thought.

Moreover, the counsel of God must also be seen along the timeline. It precedes the creation of the world and extends beyond its end. It encompasses the eternal past as well as the eternal future.

At the close of His earthly ministry, before ascending to heaven, Jesus left something very important for His followers — a more concise way of understanding the breadth of God’s thoughts.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;

and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

The Lord told us to go and make disciples, spreading His teachings throughout the world, preaching to all nations, baptizing those who repent, and teaching them to observe all His commandments. This was a clear command.

A COMMAND

This command is part of a Christian responsibility — it is part of the counsel of God to rescue people, form lives, spread His family on the earth, and save the soul of lost man.

From Genesis to Revelation there is a glimpse of the counsel of God, given its magnitude and virtue. But as mentioned above, Jesus clearly summarized this counsel by stating that we should teach those who convert to Him to observe all the things He taught and proclaimed.

2) Obeying the Command of Jesus

Is there any account in the New Testament of someone who obeyed the command Jesus gave in Matthew 28:18–20?

Yes — the apostle Paul. He took the counsel of God as his life’s mission and ministry. He dedicated his days to the redemptive work of Christ.

“how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house... For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. Therefore take heed to yourselves... remembering that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.”

Acts 20:20, 27, 31 (NKJV)

This text describes Paul's commitment to applying in his ministry the command our Lord Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:18–20: "...teaching them to observe all things..."

Characteristics of Paul's ministerial action (service):

CHARACTERISTIC	EXPRESSION
1 THREE YEARS	CONTINUITY — he never ceased to admonish
2 CONTINUITY	he never ceased to admonish
3 CONCENTRATION	night and day
4 INTENSITY	with tears
5 SACRIFICE	to each one of you

Paul's ministerial action was gradual and continuous. He was preparing the flock for what would come in the near future — for the creeping heresies and confusions that would arise in the life of the church. God left these records so that we would not be lost without direction. The more we immerse ourselves in the Holy Scriptures, the more instructed, mature, and grounded we will be in the knowledge of God.

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

Paul's commitment to obeying the command of Jesus manifested itself night and day, with tears, dangers, love, hardship, and perseverance. He kept insisting on teaching the counsel in order to save lives. And this sheds light on our own ministerial agenda and service demands.

3) Not Being Conformed to the World

Do we have clarity about what the whole counsel / purpose of God means and how we are to remain in it?

In general, the church does not know it — and it is very likely that even those with whom we relate and to whom we teach these things do not understand it clearly. They may associate it with what falls under "the path," an expression we use to describe the content of the truths and commandments that should be ministered from the time of conversion onward.

The creeping heresies and deceptions that entered the church in earlier times — and that also manifest in our own day — can only be combated if we have a clear discernment of the counsel of God in our minds.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies

*a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

Not walking in the counsel of the ungodly means refusing to assimilate their way of life — the counsel filled with satanic things that they profess. If there is no fear or knowledge of God, any counsel or opinion of the ungodly will be laden with deception, lies, and confusion.

The counsel of the ungodly is everywhere, but God said that blessed is the one who does not walk in that counsel or assimilate the way of life of unbelievers.

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor stands in the path of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and in His law he meditates day and night.*

Psalm 1:1–2 (NKJV)

4) The Battlefield of the Mind: A Warning

How many are converted and then fail to break with the counsel of the ungodly or with their relationships with the ungodly?

The text of Romans 12:1–2 warns us about “being transformed by the renewing of our mind.” Our thoughts are perhaps the greatest battlefield we face. Deception is born in the mind. And we will also give account to God for our thoughts. Remember this!

Our mind and our thoughts are integral parts of our being. We cannot assume that our thoughts are harmless; they can lead us astray and deprive us of truly knowing God, as well as prevent us from experiencing the true will of God. Being transformed by the renewing of the mind is deeply significant — and deeply challenging.

Our thoughts must flow from the Word of God, molded by the counsel of the Creator. Let us make the Holy Scriptures our mold. Only then will we have a transformed mind. Our thoughts must be filled with the counsel of God, and our sanctification involves our thoughts.

To speak of the counsel of God is to be filled with content, with grace, with the capacity for a perfect life — and to be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

When we are converted, there is a change of kingdoms. It is a new reality, a change of mind — as Romans 12:1–2 describes.

The text of Psalm 1:1–2 warns the Christian about rejecting the teaching, opinion, and counsel of people who have no fear of God. What sound counsel could they possibly give us?

CONCLUSION

In this first lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we spoke about the counsel of God — which is laid out from Genesis to Revelation and is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit through the Holy Scriptures. The counsel of God is everything He has ordained, established, and left on record for our teaching, correction, guidance, growth, and sanctification. And everything that is out of accord with what God thinks (His Word and His doctrine) is the counsel of the ungodly, and we must reject it. The counsel of God is absolute.

May God bless us to seek and come to know a little more of His counsel. May we be filled with this truth, so that we may have thoughts transformed in the light of truth — in the light of the Word of God.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01** The counsel of God is very broad; it encompasses the eternal past and the eternal future.
- 02** In our minds a struggle takes place between the counsel of God and the counsel of the ungodly.
- 03** When we are born again, we are challenged to have a transformed mind — replacing the mind that was conformed to this age with the mind of our Lord.
- 04** Paul obeyed the command of the Lord and dedicated three years of his ministry to teaching the full content of the counsel of God.
- 05** Our thoughts must be filled with the counsel of God.
- 06** Our sanctification involves our thoughts; therefore, we must filter them in the light of the Word of God.

SUPPLEMENTAL READING:

Genesis 6:5 & 8:21 | Psalm 94:11 | Ephesians 2:3 | Job 20:2–3
Romans 15:4 | Acts 20 | 2 Corinthians 10:3 | 1 Corinthians 2:8
Romans 3:4 | Matthew 22:29

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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