

1 Peter 2:4-8

Built: Living Stones, Cornerstone, & Stumbling Stone

Introduction

1. Last week we were called to put off the old, dirty clothes of sin and put on Christ, by longing for the Word and Remembering Our Conversion
2. This week, we continue, Since we have tasted the Lord, we Go to Him as our Chief and Master
3. We Study Scripture to See Jesus! (**John 5:39-40**)

Main Idea of 1 Peter 2:4-8

The Church is Built on Nothing Less, than Jesus Christ, the Chosen, Precious, Living Cornerstone to those who believe and who is a Stumbling Stone to those Destined to Disobey and Disbelieve.

The Living Stone: Christ, Chosen by God (vv 4, 6, Is 28:16)

1. *Living Stone*: Christ Lives! Identified as the Living Stone = Resurrected from the Dead & Declared King
 - a. **See Romans 1:4**
2. *Chosen and Tested by God*: Christ was God's Chosen
 - a. God Did It! In order to Save His People!
 - b. When? Eternity Past (**1 Corinthians 2:7**)
 - c. Why? To Save Sinners & Build His Church
3. *Precious*: Christ is Precious!
 - a. Why? His Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, Kingship, Second Coming
 - b. Is he Precious to You?

Living Stones: Church, The Spiritual House (vv 4-5, 6c, 7a)

1. *You Come To Him*
 - a. Why? Connected to Verse 3 – You have tasted that the Lord is Good – He is Your ALL
2. *Living Stones*: The Church Identified with Her Master
 - a. We are Being *Built as a Spiritual House*
 - i. Not with Dead Stones
 - ii. Contact with Christ brings Life!
 - b. Members of One Body – A Spiritual Temple (**1 Cor 3:16-17**)

3. We are a *Holy Priesthood*
 - a. The Priesthood of All Believers
 - b. Jesus made the Sacrifice for Sin and Guilt
 - c. We Represent Christ in the World
 - d. We Image Him to our Neighbors
4. We Offer *Spiritual Sacrifices*
 - a. **Romans 12:1** – Our Bodies
 - b. **1 Corinthians 10:31** – Our Deeds
 - c. **Hebrews 13:15** – Our Praise, Speech, Evangel
 - d. **Philippians 4:18** – Our Treasures
5. We Do it All Through Jesus Christ (**1 Cor 2:2, 5:19**)
6. Whoever Believes is Not Put to Shame – This is Our Honor – Christ Alone!!!!

The Cornerstone, A Stumbling Stone (vv 4b, 7b-8; Is 8, Ps 118)

1. The *Living Cornerstone* is a *Rejected Stone*
2. *The Builders*: Who are they?
 - a. The Jewish Leaders
 - b. The Gentile World (**1 Corinthians 1:23**)
3. Why does God Lay a Stone of Stumbling and a Rock of Offense?
 - a. Why do they stumble? PRIDE!!!!
 - b. Why is the Rock (Christ) Offensive to them?
 - i. They are the Experts
 - ii. Politics, Science, Philosophy, Education
 - iii. They Build Society – Not Christ!
4. Why Does Peter Assert the Negative between 6 and 9?
 - a. God Wins Either Way – Whether people receive and believe or reject!
 - b. Christ is the Cornerstone through their Rejection and Unbelief – it will not thwart God
 - c. Through Their Rejection – God Builds His Church!
5. Why Do they Stumble? They Disobey the Word!
6. Why Do they Disobey?
 - a. Shocking: *The Were Destined to do it...*
 - b. They do not Win in their Autonomous Self-Determinism – God Does!
 - c. Their Unbelief also Serves God's Purposes
 - d. Was it the Will of God for Jesus to be nailed to the Cross by Evil Men? YES!
7. God Is Victorious 100% of the Time!