

On the Way to the Cross - The Chief Cornerstone

Luke 20:17-18, Jesus looked directly at them and asked, "Then what is the meaning of that which is written: "The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone"? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but anyone on whom it falls will be crushed."

Here the Lord Jesus is quoting **Psalm 118:22**, which is a Psalm about salvation. Let's read verses 21 to 26....

I will praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

This was the Lord's doing; It is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity.

What is a cornerstone? The cornerstone (or foundation stone) concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure. Jesus said, the stone that the builders (the religious system) rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone.

And according to this psalm, it was the Lord's doing! Sending Jesus to the cross is a fulfilment of this prophetic passage of scripture. He has become our salvation, and this should be marvellous in our eyes. So much so that we can see every day as a day of our salvation. That is why we declare, "*This is a day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*" During the day that the Lord has made, we must pray, "*Save now, O Lord. O Lord, send now prosperity!*" The stone that was rejected is the cornerstone of all that God has made for us to enjoy. And His word declares that He has made all things for our enjoyment. "*As for the rich in this world, charge them not to be proud and arrogant and contemptuous of others, nor to set their hopes on uncertain riches, but on God, Who richly and ceaselessly provides us with everything for our enjoyment*" (1 Timothy 6:17).

1 Peter 2:6-8 gives us a different view of the same truth. *Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion. A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offence." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.*

God lays the true and precious, Foundation Stone. He who believes will not be disappointed. To us who believe He is precious, but the unbelievers stumble at this Stone. To some this Stone brings life and to others offence. These days we are no longer so familiar with the function of a cornerstone. It used to be the point of reference of the builder, but also the most important point of stability and strength of the building. If the building was an instrument, it would be tuned by it!

So God has laid this Cornerstone firmly on which the whole building rests, His Church, built not with brick and cement, but with living stones of human beings, cleansed and washed by the precious blood of Jesus. There is no

other stone as firm as this Stone anywhere to be found. Even if the whole world should move and be shaken, this Stone will not shake. The one who builds on this foundation will never be disappointed.

From God's Word we see many characteristics of this Cornerstone - tried and precious, a firm foundation, and the strength of the building. We know that this Stone is the Lord Jesus Christ. The pharisees and scribes rejected Him, but God took Him and made Him to be the Chief Cornerstone. So the foundation is firm and solid, which God Himself has laid. No man can move it. The Word teaches us that you can be saved by no other name than the Name of the Lord Jesus. If you wish to build your life, there is no other foundation to build on. Yes, everything else will disappoint!

You will be dissatisfied if you build on anything other than the Rock of Ages. However, if you put your trust in the Rock of Ages will never be let down. That's why Paul said that because of the greatness of knowing Christ, he turned his back even on his traditions and all his qualifications. He counted them as nothing. Is the Lord Jesus as precious to you? Do you love Him more than anything else? There are also those that are stubborn and stiff-necked and continue in their own way. Woe to you if you reject the Rock of Ages, the Chief Cornerstone. What or who is the cornerstone of your life? If you are married, is Jesus Christ the cornerstone of your marriage. If not, your marriage will probably fall apart. If your ministry isn't built on this Cornerstone, it will fail. Even governments, where Jesus is not the cornerstone, will come to nothing. There is no person that will prosper and succeed if he doesn't build on this Foundation and the Chief Cornerstone.