

A Lively Hope In Troubled Times
Life On The Rock
1 Pet 2.4-12

[Resourced from Adrian Rogers]

Matt 7.24

What do you need when the storms of life hit. Jesus said we need a sure foundation. We need to build our house, not on the sands of the seashore, but on the solid footing of the rock under the sand.

***Matthew 7:24-28** Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, **which built his house upon a rock:** ²⁵And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: **for it was founded upon a rock.** ²⁶And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, **which built his house upon the sand:** ²⁷And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. ²⁸And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:*

We need to have a life built on the rock.

A. The Cornerstone Of The Church (vs 4, 6-7; 1 Cor 3.11) - *To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,*

***1 Peter 2:6-7** - Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion **a chief corner stone,** elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,*

1 Cor 3.11

The chief corner stone is the foundation stone of the whole building. Everything else builds on and from this foundational stone.

***1 Cor. 3:11** For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1. Jesus Christ is a Supernatural Stone (vs 4) - *"To whom coming, as unto a **living***

stone, . . ." - Stones are not alive, but this stone is called the living stone. This stone is a supernatural stone.

2. **Jesus Christ is a Slighted Stone (vs 4; Isa 53.3) -**

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone,

disallowed indeed of men, . . ."

Rejected by men.

Isaiah 53:3-5 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

3. **Jesus Christ is a Select Stone (vs 4; Eph 1.3-4) -** *"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,"*

Rejected by men. But chosen by God.

Ephes. 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

4. **Jesus Christ is a Strategic Stone (vs 6-7) -** *"Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,*

The corner stone is the first stone laid, it is the stone that aligns the whole building. If the corner stone isn't right the whole building will be wrong.

Everything in life pivots upon this corner stone. With Jesus there is abundant life, without Jesus there is no life.

Illustration: There is an ancient Jewish tradition that when they were building

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A. The Cornerstone of the Church –
Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus is a Supernatural Stone

Solomon's Temple. As they were preparing the site for the temple they did not want any hammer or chisel noises on the holy site so they would prepare the stones in a quarry and then transport them to the temple site. As the workmen were working at the site they kept stumbling over this large stone. Eventually the foreman asked, "What is this stone and why is it here?" No one seemed to know. So the foreman ordered it removed from the site. On his orders it was tumbled into the valley Kidron. When everything was ready for the construction of the temple the foreman ordered, "Place the Corner Stone." As they looked around no one could find the cornerstone. They called to the quarry and asked for the corner stone. The quarry replied, it is already there. They did an inventory and wrote the quarry again, there is no corner stone. The quarry replied, "It has already been sent." Then it dawned upon them, it is in the valley of Kidron. **Many people stumble over Jesus and then just roll Him out of the way, until they realize there is no life without the Chief Cornerstone of Jesus Christ.**

5. **Jesus Christ is a Stumbling Stone (vs 8; Luke 20.17-18) - "And a Stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which **stumble at the word**, being disobedient . . ."**

2 Tim 2.19

Luke 20:17-18 *And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? ¹⁸Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.*

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A. The Cornerstone of the Church – Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus is a Supernatural Stone
2. Jesus is a Slighted Stone
3. Jesus is a Select Stone
4. Jesus is a Strategic Stone
5. Jesus is a Stumbling Stone

"Jesus is either a stepping stone into heaven or a stumbling stone into hell."

[Adrian Rogers]

6. **Jesus Christ is a Solid Stone (2 Tim 2.19; Isa 28.16)- He will stand and endure through all of life.**

2 Tim. 2:19 *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

"You may tremble upon the stone, but the stone of Jesus Christ will never tremble under you." [Adrian Rogers]

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, **a sure foundation:** he that believeth shall not make haste.

B. The Construction of the Church (vs 5)

1 Peter 2:5 - Ye also, as lively stones, **are built up** a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1. We are Built together - ". . .are **built up** a spiritual house . . ." - **We are built together to make this Spiritual House.**

These are lively or living stones.

a. The Significance of the Church - Some people might say, "I believe in Jesus I just don't believe in the Church."

How many one stone buildings do you see. Take away the construction of the stones and you have nothing but insignificant stones in the field.

b. The Significance of the Stones - Someone might say, "It doesn't matter what I do, that is none of your business."

We are built together. The building cannot stand without its stones.

Illustration: This Church building is a pretty nice looking building. Did you know that the foundation from the our side of our building only looks one or two blocks high, but on the inside there are five or six rows of blocks you cannot see. Those are the foundation stones that hold the whole building up. What if the foundation stones said, **"we are underground, no one sees us, so we don't matter, and left the building?"** They whole building would come down.

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A. The Cornerstone of the Church – Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus is a Supernatural Stone
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6. Jesus is a Solid Stone

Can a person be a Christian with out being a part of a Church? Can a bee be a bee without a hive? Can a sailor be a sailor without a ship? Can a parent be a parent without a family? **You may figure it out for a short time but it won't be natural.**

Matt 18.20

2. We are Bound together - We are Bound together to make up this Spiritual Structure.

The mortar that binds us together is the mortar of love.

The fact that we are bound together proves that we need each other.

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B. The Construction of the Church

1. We are Built together

3. We are Blessed together (Matt 18.20,19) - We are blessed together in the Lord - The temple that we compose together is where the Lord dwells.

While it is clear that God indwells every born-again believer, there is a special kind of presence manifested when we come together as the Church of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Matthew 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

C. The Character of the Church (vs 5,9) - Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

*1 Peter 2:9 - But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

Rev 1.4

We are the Priests of God.

1. The Privilege of Priests (Rev 1.4-6; Heb 4.16) - To enter the holy of Hollies.

Rev. 1:4-6 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; ⁵And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, **⁶And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father**; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

How do we become the priests of God? God made us Priests.

What is the privilege of this priesthood?

Hebrews 4:16 **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We can come into the very presence of God.

- 2. The Practice of Priests (vs 5)** - ". . . .To offer up spiritual sacrifices . . ." - **Priests offer sacrifices.**

What is my sacrifice? It is to offer myself to God through Jesus Christ.

- 3. The Profession of Priests (vs 9)** - ". . . . That ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you . . ." - **To proclaim Jesus Christ to all the World.**

Do you see and understand that Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone of the Church?

Do you see and understand the Construction of this spiritual Church?

Are you living our the Priestly Character that ought to mark this royal Priesthood?

Don't be surprised if the world rejects our corner stone or our spiritual building, you just be sure you do not reject it!

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B. The Construction of the Church

1. We are Built together
2. We are Bound together
3. We are Blessed together

C. The Character of the Church – Priesthood of the believer

1. The Privileged of Priests
2. The Practice of Priests
3. The Profession of Priests

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Sunday, Jan 3, 2021
Sugar Creek Baptist, Sunday Evening, March 20, 2005