

ONE ROCK - TWO CHOICES

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INTRODUCTION

A. TEXT: *“Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: And he that believeth on him shall not be put to shame. For you therefore that believe is the preciousness: but for such as disbelieve, The stone which the builders rejected, The same was made the head of the corner; and A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence;”* (vs 6-8).

A. Those who build their life upon the precious stone.

B. Those who stumble on, and reject the corner stone.

B. THE SETTING:

A. At first this was applied to the Jews.

1. Matt. 21:42-44.

2. Mark 12:10.

3. Luke 20:17,18.

4. Acts 4:11.

B. Now (I Peter) this principal is applied to all men.

3. When we come to the “stone”, we have but two choices.

Who Stumbles - Rejects

A. “FOR THEY STUMBLE AT THE WORD” v. 8.

A. The teachings of Jesus, became a “rock of offence” to the Jews.

1. Especially concerning the “spiritual nature of the kingdom”.

2. To them it was a “stumbling block” (I Cor. 1:23).

3. *“And they gave audience unto this word;”* (Acts 22:22). When it was taught that the message of God should be carried to the Gentiles, this was rejected by the Jews.

B. The Bible, God’s Word To Man Today!

1. How many stumble over “it is written”.

2. “I know the Bible says that....but”....

3. All who reject the Word.....Reject Christ as the chief Corner Stone!

B. “BUT FOR SUCH AS DISBELIEVE,...v 7.

A. Does Jesus mean what He says.

B. Is He who He Claims to Be.. “Except ye believe...you shall die in you sin

C. “BEING DISOBEDIENT” v. 8.

A. To refuse to obey Him....Is to Reject Him.

B. How many want a beautiful house...Christian Life, **but don’t build it on the rock. (Read Matt. 7:24-27)**

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WHO BUILDS UPON ROCK

- A. CHRISTIAN'S ARE "LIVING STONES". v. 5.
1. Jesus is the chief cornerstone, v. 5-8. I Cor. 3:11.
 2. All Christians are as individual stones composing God's spiritual house, the church: "...*built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone....a holy temple in the Lord...*" (Eph. 2:18-22). (Building stones must be used in unified, cohesive relationship to each other.
- B. CHRISTIANS ARE "A HOLY PRIESTHOOD" v 5, 9.
1. "*To be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices...v 5. "But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood...."* v 9).
 2. The priest concept suggests the representative of God to us and our avenue of access to God. Since Christians are priests we do not have to have any other human intercessor. (Heb. 4:14-16).
 3. Christians, as a priesthood, offer sacrifices to God in daily life. (Rom. 12:1
- C. CHRISTIANS ARE A "HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD..."v 9-10.
1. "But ye are...a holy nation, a people for God's own possession."v 9.
 2. "Who in time past were no people, but now are the people of God. v 10.
 3. God has always had a special people. (The church is his people today).

CHRISTIAN'S ARE...

- A. CHRISTIAN'S ARE GOOD CITIZENS. v. 13-17.
1. Since good citizens do not do things that weaken their potential and the welfare of a nation, CHRISTIANS also must abstain from "fleshly lusts, which war against the soul". V. 11.
 2. They do not behave in a way that reflects on their country (e.g. "The Ugly American," etc.) Christians have "*your behavior seemly among the Gentiles...*" v. 12c.
 3. They respect their nation's authorities and obey its laws. CHRISTIANS, "*Be subject to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake...For so is the will of God, that by well-doing ye should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.*" v. 14,15.
 4. They do not "dodge" their duties. As citizens of God's Kingdom we must answer the call. (Matt. 28:18ff Great Commission).
- B. CHRISTIANS ARE PATIENT SUFFERERS.
1. Good Workers in times of difficulties.
 2. We have Christ as our example.

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- C. CHRISTIANS ARE CHRIST-LIKE. v. 21-25. We are to “follow in his steps
1. In suffering, v. 21,23: C”Christ also suffered for you...”
 2. In avoiding sin, v. 22a; “Who Did No Sin”.
 3. In speech, v. 22b; “neither was guile found in his mouth”
 4. In submission, v. 23c; “reviled not again..threatened not;, but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”
 5. In sacrifice for others, v. 24; “Who his own self bare our sins in his body upon the tree, that we, having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed.”
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EXAMPLES

- A. “...*Upon this rock I will build my church;*” (Matt. 16:18).
1. How many stumble and fall on this rock.
 - a. Jesus came to establish a kingdom, not build a church. We have to come and try again.
 - b. Church is not important. One is as good as another, etc.
 - c. You don’t have to be a member of the church to be saved.
 2. Acts 20:28. Church purchases by the blood of Christ.
- B. “*And having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation;*” (Heb. 5:9).
1. Not just to those who love him, to those who are honest, sincere.
 2. Not those who say “the sinners prayer”
 3. How many stumble and fall over the word...**OBEY!**
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CONCLUSION

- A. WHEN WE COME TO THE CHIEF CORNER STONE...WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO??
1. Two Possibilities.
 - a. We are going to stumble...fail, and Fall.
 - b. Or, we are going to build our life upon the rock that shall never fail.
 2. Which will you do?
- B. TWO BUILDERS.
1. “*Every one therefore that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man, who built his house upon the rock;*” (Matt. 7:24).
 2. “*Everyone that falleth on that stone shall be broken to pieces; but on Whomsoever it shall fall, it will scatter him as dust.*” (Lk. 20:18).
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