

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Peter 2:6-10**.

For *this* is contained in Scripture:

"BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*,  
AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

<sup>7</sup>This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,

"THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED,

THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*,"

<sup>8</sup>and,

"A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE";

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed. <sup>9</sup>But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup>for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

- B. Tonight's lesson is 2-fold:

1. To show the difference between the old temple and the new one.
2. To show how Jesus is a precious cornerstone and also a rock of offense.

- C. We have a great church because we have a great X; while others will despise the church because they stumble at X.

## I. THE OT TEMPLE VS. THE NT TEMPLE.

- A. In Haggai, chapter 2, Haggai assures the people that the glory of the latter temple will be greater than the former:

1. The older men were weeping at the rebuilt temple because it was nothing like Solomon's.
2. Haggai wanted to stress that the new temple would be spiritual and have greater glory with X as the foundation and corner.

- B. The OT temple was not in the mind of God but in David's. Nathan receives instruction from God and gives the prophecy of how He will set up His temple through Christ. The prophecy also applies to Solomon (see 2Sam. 7:1-16).

- C. God's temple is now on Mt. Zion, not on the physical earth in a city (Heb. 12:22).

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

- D. In this spiritual house Jesus is the foundation and corner (1Cor. 3:11; Rom. 9:32,33; 1Pet. 2:6-8).

(Rom 9:32-33) Why? Because *they did not pursue it* by faith, but as though *it were* by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, [33] just as it is written, "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

(1Cor 3:11) For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

(1Pet 2:6-8) For *this* is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." [7]

This precious value, then, is for you who believe. But for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*," [8] and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.

- E. This temple is the church for which Jesus died (1Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:19-21).

(1Cor 3:16) Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

(Eph 2:19-21) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, [20] having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, [21] in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

## II. JESUS CHRIST IS THE CORNERSTONE AND THE REJECTED STONE.

- A. Peter says that some men have accepted Jesus as the “living stone” and are being built up as living stones upon Him. To these people Jesus is a precious stone.
- B. But Peter also says that some men have rejected Jesus as being the “living stone” and He has become unto them a “rock of offense” and a “stone of stumbling.”
- C. The reasons that this has happened are the same. It depends on how one wants to view Jesus. The characteristics of X will either draw men unto Him or some men will reject the same characteristics.
- D. Here is a partial list:
1. In X, the Law of Moses ended and the gospel began (Heb. 10:9; Rom. 10:4).  
(Rom 10:4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.  
(Heb 10:9) then He said, “BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO THY WILL.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second.
  2. In X, the OT culminated and the NT began (Gal. 3:24; Mt. 28:18).  
(Mt 28:18) And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.  
(Gal 3:24) Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith.
  3. In X, all of recorded history split into B.C. and A.D. (B.C. stands for “before Christ” while A.D. is Latin “anno domini” meaning “in the year of our Lord” not “after death”).
  4. In X, the old Israel perished and the new Israel began (Mt. 19:28; Gal. 6:16; Jas. 1:1).  
(Mt 19:28) And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.  
(Gal 6:16) And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.  
(Jas 1:1) James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad, greetings.
  5. In X, the past and the future meet in forgiveness of sins (Heb. 8:1,2; 9:15,26).  
(Heb 8:1-2) Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, [2] a minister in the sanctuary, and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.  
(Heb 9:15) And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.  
(Heb 9:26) Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.
  6. In X, God and humanity have come together (2Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:9; Jn. 10:30).  
(Jn 10:30) “I and the Father are one.”  
(2Cor 5:19) namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.  
(Col 2:9) For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
  7. In X, God’s humble servant re-created us for good works (Phil. 2:7; Eph. 2:10).  
(Eph 2:10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.  
(Phil 2:7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.
  8. In X, the destiny of every man hangs (Mt. 25:32,33).  
“And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; [33] and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.
  9. In X, some see the wisdom of God, others see foolishness (1Cor. 1:21-25).  
For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. [22] For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; [23] but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, [24] but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. [25] Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. To those who love X, all of the above make Him precious, the author and perfecter of faith.
- B. To those who hate X, all of the above make Him to be of no effect or of ill effect in their lives.
- C. Truly we have a X who is the only one worthy to be the corner and foundation of the church.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.