

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Greetings, appreciations.
- B. Scripture text: **1Peter 2:5-8**.
- C. This morning's lesson is two-fold:
  - 1. To show the difference between the old temple and the new one.
  - 2. To show how Jesus is a precious cornerstone and at the same time a rock of offense.
- D. We have a great church because we have a great Christ; while others will despise the church because they stumble at Christ.

## 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. Some of the 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 Christ as the foundation and corner.
- B. The OT 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 (2Sam. 7:1-16).
- C. God's temple is now on Mt. Zion, not on the physical earth in a city (Heb. 12:22).
- D. In this spiritual house Jesus is the foundation and corner (1Cor. 3:11; Rom. 9:32,33; 1Pet. 2:6-8).
- E. This temple is the church of which Jesus died (1Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:19-21).

## 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 Christ will either draw or repel men unto Him.
- D. Here is a partial list;
  - 1. In Christ, the Law of Moses ended and the gospel began:
    - a. He takes away a first to establish a second (Heb. 10:9).
    - b. Jesus is the end of the Law (Rom. 10:4).
  - 2. In Christ, the OT culminated and the NT began:
    - a. The OT was a tutor to bring us to Christ (Gal. 3:24).
    - b. Authority in Christ, He said preach the gospel (Mt. 28:18-20).
  - 3. In Christ, all of recorded history split into BC and AD  
BC stands for "before Christ" while AD is Latin "*anno domini*" meaning "in the year of our Lord."
  - 4. In Christ, the old Israel perished and the new Israel began:
    - a. Apostles judge the twelve tribes (Mt. 19:28).
    - b. The brethren are spiritual Israel (Gal. 6:16).
    - c. The church is the twelve tribes scattered abroad (Jas. 1:1).
  - 5. In Christ, the past and the future meet in forgiveness of sins (Heb. 8:12; 9:15,26).
  - 6. In Christ, God and humanity have come together:
    - a. God was in Christ reconciling the world (2Cor. 5:19).
    - b. The fullness of deity dwelled in Christ (Col. 2:9).
    - c. God and Christ are one (Jn. 10:30).

7. In Christ, God's humble servant recreated us for good works:
  - a. Christ is God's humble bond-servant (Phil. 2:7).
  - b. We are created in Christ for good works (Eph. 2:10).
8. In Christ, the destiny of every man hangs (or turns). Some will be on the right, some on the left (Mt. 25:32,33).
9. In Christ, some see the wisdom of God, others see foolishness (1Cor. 1:21-25).

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

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