

## Living Stones; 1 Peter 2:4-5

### I. Rejected

#### A. A Living Stone

1. Isaiah 28:16; therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'
2. Isaiah 8:14; And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
3. Psalm 118:22; The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
4. The cornerstone (or foundation stone) concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation
5. It is important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, and so determines the position of the entire structure.
6. If the cornerstone is off, the whole building will be off
7. Christ is our cornerstone, our foundation
8. Coffman, in his commentary on 1 Peter, quotes Barclay, "Peter could hardly have spoken of Jesus in this manner without thinking of Jesus' words to himself,"
  - a) Matthew 16:15–18; <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"  
<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

#### B. Rejected by men

1. The testing of someone or something to find it is genuine
2. Mark 8:31; And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.
3. Luke 9:21–22; <sup>21</sup> And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, <sup>22</sup> saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."
4. The religious leaders of the 1st century tested the Christ to see if he was genuine (we read many times in the Gospels how they tested him with questions)
5. He passed every test, but they still gave Him a failing grade

#### C. Chosen and precious in the sight of God

1. Chosen - elect, foreordained
2. God's plan from the beginning was for the Christ to be the sacrificial Lamb
3. Acts 2:23; this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

4. Acts 13:26–33; <sup>26</sup> “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. <sup>27</sup> For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. <sup>28</sup> And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup> And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup> But God raised him from the dead, <sup>31</sup> and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. <sup>32</sup> And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, <sup>33</sup> this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus,

5. From the very beginning God’s plan was Jesus as our sacrifice, and the Gospel as our calling

6.2 Thessalonians 2:14; To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

D. We are called by the Gospel to be a spiritual house

## II. Spiritual House

### A. Living stones

1. It is amazing to me that God uses the metaphor “Living Stone” for Jesus, then in the same sentence uses the same metaphor for us, the church

2. This idea is just as precious as Him calling us “children of God”

3. Metaphors for the church; a vine (John 15:5), a flock (John 10:16), a bride (Ephesians 5:25-27), a body (1 Corinthians 12), a family (Romans 8:15-17), a city (Hebrews 11:10), a temple (1 Corinthians 3:9)

4. There is no doubt that the church is spiritual in nature

a) We are not saved by the works of the law, but by the blood of Jesus

(1) 1 John 1:7; But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

b) Our fight is not in this realm but in the heavenly realm

(1) Ephesians 6:12; For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

### B. Built up as a spiritual house

1. “It must surely be true, as Barclay said, that Peter could hardly have spoken of Jesus in this manner without thinking of Jesus’ words to himself, “On this rock I will build my church, Matthew 16:13 and following; and yet Peter, in this passage, made no connection with his own person, stressing the view that Christ is the foundation, not Peter. He did not use either of the words [ @Petros] or [ @petra], but “spoke of Christ as the [ @lithos].” Coffman

2. we are complete yet unfinished; being built up, trained

3. Ephesians 4:11–16; <sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of

the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

4. Christianity is not an end, but a means

a) Even after you achieve any degree, there is still more training to accomplish in your chosen profession

(1) Engineers require continual training in order to maintain their certification

(2) Plumbers require annual certifications and training

b) After we are added to the body of Christ we are expected to study and work in the kingdom of God

c) Our “degree” in Christianity is a license to be a servant in the kingdom, not a CEO

5. Our “house” house in continually under construction with additions and improvements

C. These add-ons and improvements are our spiritual sacrifices

### III. Spiritual Sacrifices

#### A. Acceptable to God

1. Under the Law of Moses, sacrifices were physical and temporal

a) dead, bloody, burned with fire, smeared with fat, salted with salt

b) Leviticus 1:3–9; <sup>3</sup> “If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the Lord. <sup>4</sup> He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. <sup>5</sup> Then he shall kill the bull before the Lord, and Aaron’s sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. <sup>6</sup> Then he shall flay the burnt offering and cut it into pieces, <sup>7</sup> and the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. <sup>8</sup> And Aaron’s sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat, on the wood that is on the fire on the altar; <sup>9</sup> but its entrails and its legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

2. Under the perfect Law of Liberty our sacrifices may be physical, but have spiritual consequences

#### B. Through Jesus Christ

1. Our faith

a) Philippians 2:17; Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

2. Our love

a)Mark 12:33; And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

### 3.Our praise

a)Hebrews 13:15–16; <sup>15</sup> Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

### 4.Our contribution

a)Philippians 4:18; I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

### 5.Our whole life

a)2 Timothy 4:6–8; <sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

b)Ephesians 5:1–2; Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

C.We, as Christians, have offered up our lives in exchange for a life of sacrifice and service in God's kingdom, these are our spiritual sacrifices

## IV.Living Stones

A.We are built upon The Living Stone

B.Do not reject Him

C.But Offer yourself as a sacrifice, poured out in service to Him