

“A Living Stone!”
1 Peter 2:4-6

Introduction:

1. **IE:** Last Night, We Enjoyed A Family Fun & Fellowship Night! The Games Were Fun To Play! The Conversation Was Enjoyable & Encouraging! But The Food – All Kinds Of Mexican Food – Was Out Of This World!
 - I Tasted Several Different Kinds Of Mexican Food! But, I Realized That After I Tasted Something Delicious, I Kept Finding Myself Going Back To See If There Was More!
 - And I Had To Control Myself, To Make Sure I Didn't Over-Do It!
 2. This Is An Illustration Of What Peter Has Been Talking About!
 - When He Said In 2:3 - “If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious!”
 - Remember Why He Said This?
 - Because He Wanted You To Grow In Your Christian Life!
 - And This Growth Will Only Come Through The Lord & His Word!
 - And You Need To Have A Hunger For This Growth!
 - Have You “Tasted” The Goodness & Grace Of The Lord This Week?
 - He Is Good! He Is Gracious! Have You Grown?
 - And The More You Really “Taste” Of Him, The More You Will Want To Keep Coming Back To Him For More!
 3. This Is Why Peter Adds In 2:4:
 - “To whom coming!”
 - A Christian Who Has “Tasted” The Goodness Of The Lord Jesus Christ, Will Keep Coming Back To Him For More!
 - And This Is The Only Way That You Will Grow!
 - And Then, Peter Changes His Illustration!
 - From The Illustration Of Food!
 - To An Illustration Of A Building!
 - Shows That The Lord Is So Good, That It Is Hard For Us To Explain It Sufficiently & Satisfactorily In Any One Way!
 - Read 2:4-6:
 - “To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, / 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. / 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!”
 4. What Are You Building Your Life On?
 - If You Have “Tasted That The Lord Is Gracious” – Then You Need To Keep Coming Back To Him & Build Your Life Upon Him!
 - Because Only Jesus Christ Has What You Need!
 - 4 Things:
1. ***A Vitality For Your Life!***
 - 2:4a - “To whom coming, as unto a living stone!”
 - ***Without Life, There Can Be No Growth!*** And The Life You Need Is The Life Jesus Has!
 - Here, It Jesus Is Described As: “A Living Stone!”
 - There Are Ordinary Stones! There Are Semi-Precious Stones! There Are Precious Stones! But What Is A Living Stone?
 - The Living Stone Is A Person!
 - This Verse Is Connected Very Closely To 2:3!
 - The Living Stone Is The Lord! Jesus Christ!
 - If You Are A Christian:
 - He Is The One You Came To For Salvation!
 - He Is The One You Must Continue To Come To In Order To Grow!
 - The Living Stone Is A Person – The Lord Jesus Christ!

- The Living Stone Has A Power!
 - This Stone Is “Living!”
 - A Favorite Word For Peter!
 - Matthew 16:16 - “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!”
 - 1:3 - “Living Hope!” / 1:23 - “Living Word!”
 - Here - “A Living Stone!”
 - With Life, Comes Energy / Strength / Power!
 - When We Think Of A Stone, We Think Of Something Dead / Lifeless / Inanimate! **IE:** Gem / Fossil / Mineral Show - 4H - Greenfield!
 - But This Stone Is Alive / Vibrant / Powerful!
- The Living Stone Has A Power – Life!
- The Living Stone Has A Purpose!
 - This “Stone” Is Not Like Any Other Stone!
 - Not A “Petros” - Rock
 - But A “Lithos” - It Is A Building Stone / Block!
 - **IE:** Legos!
 - One That Has Been Cut / Prepared / Shaped For Its Place In A Building!
 - But Instead Of Being *Used* In The Building Process / This Stone Is *Doing* The Building Process!
 - The Living Stone Has A Purpose – To Build!
- And The Life Of This “Living Stone” – This Vitality!
 - Is Available To You As A Christian!
 - What Are You Building Your Life Upon?
 - To Continue To Grow, You Must Maintain: “An Abiding, Living Connection With The Divine Foundation!” (Lillie)

2. *A Value For Your Life!*

- 2:4b - “Disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious!”
 - There Are Two Ways To Treat This “Living Stone!”
 - Only Two Ways To Treat Jesus Christ!
- The Evaluation Of The “Living Stone”:
 - By Men:
 - “Disallowed!”
 - To Examine & Then Reject – To Throw Out!
 - This Is How Mankind Treated Jesus!
 - Luke 17:25 - “But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation!”
 - This Is How People Continue To Treat Jesus!
 - Isaiah 53:3 - “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!”
 - Is This How You Are Treating Him?
 - But By God:
 - “Chosen & Precious!”
 - This Is The Evaluation That Really Matters / Counts
 - **IE:** Permit / Approval From County To Build!
 - Jesus Alone Has The Evaluation & Approval Of God!
 - To Be The Foundation Of Your Life!
- The Excellence Of The “Living Stone”:
 - “Chosen!” – “Elect!”
 - Same Word Used Of Christians In 1:2!
 - Jesus Is The One Chosen By God To Do His Work Of Redemption On Earth!
 - The Building Block That Is Chosen Is Usually The Best / Most Excellent! “Just The Right One!”
 - Jesus Alone Has The Excellence!

- To Be The Foundation Of Your Life!
- The Eminence Of The “Living Stone”:
 - “Precious!”
 - Held In Great Honor & Value In The Sight Of God!
 - Isaiah 42:1 - “Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles!”
 - “But now all of Christ, His person and His work, is declared to be ‘precious’; precious to God . . . precious also to angels, they all worship Him; and precious, oh! how precious, to sin-burdened Souls, to weeping sufferers, to dying saints, to saints in glory!” (Lillie)
 - Jesus Alone Has The Eminence! To Be Your Foundation!
- Do You Value The Lord Jesus Christ As God The Father Does?
 - What Are You Building Your Life Upon?

3. *A Vision For Your Life!*

- 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!”
 - When You Continue To Come To The Lord, He Has A Great Vision For Your Life! He “Makes All Things New!”
- He Gives You A New Form!
 - “Ye Also, As Lively Stones!”
 - Before: As Dead As A Stone! A Transformation!
 - Now: As Alive As The “Living Stone!”
 - And As Beautiful! Psalm 144:12 - “As corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace!”
 - **IE:** Polished Stones In Tumbler! Beautiful!
 - He Gives You His Own Nature! His Own Life!
- He Gives You A New Fellowship!
 - “Are Built Up A Spiritual House!”
 - Ephesians 2:21-22 - “In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: / In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit!”
 - What Does This Mean? Fellowship With Him! Presence!
- He Gives You A New Function!
 - “An Holy Priesthood!”
 - As God’s Servants! / “Priesthood Of The Believer!”
 - **IE:** Letter From Pastor Summers! Emphasize!
 - What Does This Mean? Access! Opportunity!
- He Gives You A New Focus!
 - “To Offer Up Spiritual Sacrifices!”
 - Worship! Romans 12:1 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service!”
- This Is God’s Vision For Your Life As A Christian!
 - You Are:
 - Living Stones!
 - That Make Up A Spiritual House! Temple!
 - So That You Can Serve As An Holy Priesthood!
 - And Offer Up Spiritual Sacrifices!
 - And These Are Only Made “Acceptable to God by Jesus Christ!”
 - Who Are You Building Your Life Upon?

4. *A Victory For Your Life!*

- 2:6 - “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!”
 - When You Build Your Life Upon The Foundation Of Jesus Christ – You Will Not Be Disappointed! You Will Experience Victory!

- A Settled Victory!
 - “Wherefore Also It Is Contained In The Scripture, Behold, I Lay In Sion!”
 - Quotes Isaiah 28:16!
 - To “Lay” - To Set In Its Proper Place! **IE:** Puzzle Pieces!
 - Like A Craftsman Or A Mason!
 - A Pre-Determined Preparation / Placement / Process!
 - And When The Lord Jesus Fulfilled Prophecy Upon Prophecy From The OT – The Victory For Your Life Was Settled! 1 Corinthians 3:11 - “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ!”
- A Significant Victory!
 - “A Chief Corner Stone, Elect, Precious!”
 - Already Seen: Elect / Precious – Now: Chief Corner
 - Ephesians 2:20 - “Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone!”
 - The Cornerstone Is:
 - That Which “Controls The Lines Of The Building!”
 - “Visible, Not A Buried Foundation Stone!” (H)
 - “That By Which The Whole Building Is Mainly Supported And United!” (L)
 - When You Build Your Life Upon Him, He Will Be Your “Chief Corner Stone!” – Provide Significant Victory!
- A Sure Victory!
 - “And He That Believeth On Him Shall Not Be Confounded!”
 - When You Believe & Build Your Life Upon The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - You Will Never Be Put To Shame!
 - You Will Never Be Disappointed That You Did!
- This Victory Is Yours!
 - If You Have “Tasted” The Goodness Of The Lord Jesus Christ, And Have Kept Coming Back For More!
 - And You Are Building Your Life Upon Him!

Conclusion:

1. God Gives You All Of This!
 - As You Continue To Come To Him & Build Your Life Upon Him!
2. Are You?
 - What Are You Building Your Life Upon?
3. “Jesus Is The Cornerstone!”
 - ~ Jesus is the Cornerstone,
He came for sinners to atone;
Tho' rejected by His own,
He became the Cornerstone.
O Jesus is the Cornerstone.
~ When I am by trial oppressed,
On the Stone I am at rest;
When the seeds of truth are sown,
He remains the Cornerstone.
Jesus is the Cornerstone.
~ O Rock of Ages oh cleft for me,
Oh let me hide myself in Thee;
O Rock of Ages so secure,
And for all time it shall endure;
Til the children reach their home,
He remains the Cornerstone.
~ Till the breaking of the dawn,
Oh til all footsteps have ceased to roam;
Ever let the truth be known,
That Jesus is the Cornerstone!

- Jesus is the Cornerstone.
4. Is Jesus Christ The Cornerstone Of Your Life?

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