

Intro: Last week we saw Christ as the Cornerstone upon which is built the house of God. Today we see the Nail that is in the house.
 -The Lord visits his flock to care for them, bear their burdens and give them a sure place, a place of glory in his house.

I. WHAT IS THIS NAIL?

- A. The nail is a term that used for a tent peg.
1. This pin is driven into the ground and to which the corners and front of the tent is firmed up.
 2. References to this are found in Ex. 27:19, 35:18 for the tabernacle and its court.
 3. Jail used a nail of the tent to put to death Israel's enemy, Sisera, captain of the Canaanite army (Judges 4:21,22).
- B. The nail was also a row of strong pegs built into the wall of Eastern buildings.
1. The question is asked if one will take the wood of a vine to make a pin to hang a vessel on (Ezekiel 15:3).
 2. Isaiah uses the figure to describe the governor of the house, a nail in a sure place to hang the vessels on (Isa.22:21-25).
 3. The term denotes strength: it is "a nail in a sure place".
- C. The purpose of this nail:
1. There was the practical use of the nail to bear burdens.
 - a. The nail would serve as a place to hang the keys of the house on.
 - b. The nail would serve as a peg to hold the household vessels or the change of clothes.
 2. There were also the nails put in place to hold out and display the glory of the house.
 - a. Kings would display on the wall the heads or bodies of enemies taken in battle.
 - b. Gold and silver vessels were hung to display the wealth of the home. Solomon hung 300 shield of gold in his armory.

II. USED AS A FIGURE FOR THOSE WHO CARE AND RULE OVER DAVID'S HOUSE.

- A. **Shebna** was the steward of the house of David under King Hezekiah.
1. He was a proud, insolent, tyrannical, unbelieving, and wicked man who oppressed the people of God's kingdom.
 2. He did not love God's people, did not seek their good. He wanted to serve himself rather than God or the King.
 3. The Lord would demote him from his position and violently cast him out.
- B. **Eliakim** is made the new steward of the house of David.
1. The keys of the kingdom put be hung upon this nail in God's house.
 2. He as a father would love, watch over, teach, and take care of God's people in Jerusalem and Judah.
 3. As the nail bears the vessels of the house, Eliakim will be the stay and the glory of the house.
 4. But even Eliakim and his descendants as a nail shall be removed, and that which is hung there will be cut off (Isa. 22:25).
- C. **Christ** is not only the sure foundation, but he is that strong Nail of the house of David..
1. On this nail are hung the keys of the Kingdom that open and none can shut, and closes, and none can open (Rev. 3:7).
 2. He rules the house, cares for the inhabitants, loves them with the love of a father and in love for the Master of the house.
 3. He will bear the burdens of the inhabitants.
 4. But on him also will be hung all the glory of the Master's house; the trophies of war.

III. THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS TRUTH.

- A. To know Christ as Nail, we must know him first as the Cornerstone.
1. By the ordering of the Spirit in our text, Christ's first name is Cornerstone.
 2. The nail is only for those who are inside the house by election, built as lively stones on him.
 3. On Christ are hung the keys of the kingdom. He opens and is a particular Savior.
- B. Christ as Nail is the one who bears all our burdens!
1. On this Nail, God hung all of our filthy garments and guilt..."all our sins and grief to bear."
 2. As the nails fastened Christ to the cross, so our sin and guilt was fastened upon our Lord Jesus Christ.
 3. What a Nail in a sure place: by his once for all sacrifice on the cross. He is a very present help in trouble!
 4. What other burdens do we by faith cast upon him (I Pet.5:7)? Sickness, death of loved one, loneliness, troubles in family.
- C. Christ as Nail shows forth the glory of his Father's house. We are his glory, the trophy of his labors.
1. We with all of our possessions, talents, affections and love belong to our God and his Steward who has purchased us.
 2. All that we are and have must be consecrated to his service.
 3. Vessels large and vessels small: no one may say he is or has nothing to present to Christ!
 4. We may differ in our place or the amount we have to give. God weighs not he gift but the motive & faithfulness.
- D. Our eternal security. What is the future?
1. The Nail holding the keys shuts out the wicked enemies who would scatter, harm, and destroy the inhabitants of his house.
 2. The Nail is in a secure place: he will not be removed, and the burden upon it (vessels) will not be cast out.