

**Subject: *Christ is the Precious Cornerstone***

**Scripture: *1 Peter 2:1-10***

In the Scripture before us now we find that the Lord is gracious, alive, rejected by men, but chosen by God, and precious to all believers. We sing a song that goes like this:

*Lord, you are more precious than silver,  
Lord, you are more costly than gold,  
Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds,  
And nothing I desire compares to You.*

The word “precious” is a favorite word of Peter in this text (2:4, 6, 7).

- precious faith (1 Pet. 1:7)
- precious blood of Christ (1 Pet. 1:19)
- exceeding great and precious promises (2 Pet. 1:4)

This word “precious” is from the Greek, *timios*, and means something valuable, of great worth, dear, costly, and highly esteemed, honored, respected. James speaks of the farmer’s “precious” harvest. Paul urges us to build a life of “gold, silver, and precious stones” instead of wood, hay, stubble. This word is found many times in Revelation in connection with the “precious” stones of the New Jerusalem. I want you to notice three things about Christ as the precious cornerstone.

### **1. Christ is the precious cornerstone because of the Father’s selection**

God had an eternal plan of redemption and that plan first of all included Christ. He would be the key ingredient, the foundation stone or chief cornerstone of God’s temple. In the OT God had a temple for His people, but in the NT God has a people for His temple. A temple is an impressive building and it must have a solid foundation. Christ is that foundation.

- A. Christ is the Father’s select stone (“chosen of God”) – Jesus was chosen by the Father before the foundation of the world.
- B. Christ is the Father’s special stone (“I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone”) – Zion is another name for Jerusalem. Christ came to Jerusalem to fulfill the prophecy about Him. He came to Jerusalem as the Savior of the world. He came at a special time to a special people for a special purpose—to save the world from sin.

Since Jesus is God’s select and special stone, all who believe on Him “shall not be confounded” (2:6). That means that any person who trusts fully in Christ will not be put to shame or disappointed. The word “confounded” is *kataischuno*, which means “put to shame, humiliate, disgrace, or disappoint.” Paul wrote the same thing in

**Romans 10:11** *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

### **2. Christ is the precious cornerstone in spite of the world’s rejection**

Not everyone has acknowledged or received Christ as God’s chosen corner stone. Most people have either ignored or rejected.

**John 1:10-11** *He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

Before we decide who the Christ-rejecters are, we need to remember what Jesus said, “He that is not with me is against me.” Either you receive Him or you reject Him. There is no other option, no middle ground.

This world knows the price of everything, but it overlooks the real value of many important things. It is one thing to know the price of a house, but it is another to understand the value of a home. It is one thing to know the price of a wedding, but it is another to understand the value of a marriage. The world has never understood the importance of Christ or the worth of Christ.

**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.*

A. To unbelievers Christ is a slighted stone

In 2:4, 7, the word “disallowed,” means rejected. It literally means to reject or refuse something or someone after testing. Peter is quoting from Psalm 118:22. The Jewish leaders at the time of Christ were viewed as builders of the nation. Builders generally rejected stones until they found one perfectly straight and very strong because the cornerstone was critical to the symmetry and stability of the building. Jesus was that perfectly straight and strong cornerstone, but the builders rejected Him outright. They treated Him as a scrap stone to be discarded.

See **Mark 12:1-12**.

B. To unbelievers Christ is a stumbling stone

In verse 8, Christ is called “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense” to all who stumble at the word, being disobedient. Peter is quoting from Isaiah 8:14. It’s as if God has set out of road sign and graven it upon a rock in the middle of the road. That rock is Christ. Every person has a choice to make. To all who reject Jesus, He is like a stone that causes them to stumble and fall and a rock that offends them. Christ is either the way of salvation if they receive Him or the way of judgment if they reject Him.

**3. Christ is the precious cornerstone because of the believer’s connection**

To believers Jesus is precious because of who He is and what He does.

A. To believers Christ is the living stone

Verse 4 speaks of His resurrection. He is the source of spiritual life.

**John 11:25-26** <sup>25</sup> *Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: <sup>26</sup> And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? Why that question? Christ is the source of life ONLY to those who believe in Him. Believers are called “living stones” (vs. 5) because of our faith in Him.*

**1 Corinthians 15:22** *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

His resurrection is the promise of our resurrection. We share in His victory over death. Death is a definite fact, a destructive force, and a defeated foe.

B. To believers Christ is the chief cornerstone

**1 Corinthians 3:11** *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

The chief cornerstone (vs. 6) was the stone from which the builders worked to make the building square and strong. Even in modern buildings a cornerstone is a memorial stone laid at the corner of a building as a reminder of the date when it was built and the name of the builder. Christ is our solid foundation for all of life. We need Him for support and guidance. We adjust our lives to rest on Him and line up with Him. An old Irishman once said: "On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other rocks are shamrocks."

Jesus is precious to us because we're connected to Him by faith. When a parent or grandparent looks at their child or grandchild, they're thinking, "He or she is so precious." A stranger comes along and sees the same child, but to the stranger it's just a child. What's the difference? For family, there's a heart connection.

In 1902, Charles Gabriel wrote a simple hymn with these words:

*So precious is Jesus, my Savior, my King,  
His praise all the day long with rapture I sing;  
To Him in my weakness for strength I can cling,  
For He is so precious to me.*

*He stood at my heart's door in sunshine and rain  
And patiently waited an entrance to gain;  
What shame that so long He entreated in vain,  
For He is so precious to me.*

*I praise Him because He appointed a place  
Where, someday, through faith in His wonderful grace,  
I know I shall see Him, shall look on His face,  
For He is so precious to me.*

*Chorus:  
For He is so precious to me,  
For He is so precious to me,  
'Tis heaven below, my Redeemer to know,  
For He is so precious to me.*

Can you sing that and mean it? It that your personal testimony?