

Christ: Chosen and Precious to God

- I. In the sight of God, Jesus Christ is chosen and precious.
 - A. He's a living stone, the very Messiah of God, cf. Ps 118.22-24
 - 1. He's a foundation stone, the first stone laid by God, at the lowest point, Mt 20.28
 - 2. He's a solid stone, a sure footing for the church built upon Him, Mt 16.18
 - 3. He's that first stone, without which there is no building, Pr 8.22-23
 - 4. He's a living, life-giving stone, Life Himself, and giving life to all who come to Him, Jn 14.6; 10.10
 - B. He's chosen and precious in the sight of God.
 - 1. Men rejected Him, but God chose Him. Men despised Him, but God found Him precious in His sight, Isa 42.1
 - 2. None is more precious, none is more loved. Jesus is God's favorite, Mt 3.17
 - C. He's the one through whom our worship is made acceptable.
 - 1. Being the sinners that we are, we need a mediator, a priest, and He is that Priest. He was chosen by the Father to atone and reconcile, Rom 5.10-11; Heb 4.14-16; 7.17, 25
 - D. He's the one put forth by God to be received by faith, Isa 28.16
 - 1. The laying of His Son as His chosen stone is a call to faith, a call to rejoice in and believe upon the Lord's Messiah, Jn 3.16-17; Rom 3.24-25; Acts 4.12; Jn 14.6
 - 2. The gospel is at its core a call to faith in Christ, Acts 16.31, a faith that God will honor, Eph 2.19
 - E. He's the cornerstone, Eph 2.11-18
 - 1. A cornerstone brings two walls together into one, harmonious, and beautiful whole. Jesus is the Son of Abraham Messiah who brings the blessing of God unto all nations by building a spiritual house, not of Jews or of Gentiles, but of believers, of all those who put their faith in Him.
- II. What a remarkable Choice! What do you think of your faith in Him now!? Is your faith in Him well placed?

You: Will Never Be Put to Shame

- I. You will never be put to shame because of all the wonderful things He does for you.
 - A. You who come to Christ are yourselves like living stones, cp. Eph 2.1-3; Rom 6.23; Gal 2.20. Because He lives, you also live, Jn 14.19
 - B. You're being built into a spiritual house, Eph 2.22; Gal 4.6
 - 1. We are the new Temple of God, being the body of Him in whom the fullness of deity dwells, Col 2.9; Jn 1.14
 - C. You've been made into a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.
 - 1. Ours is not an atoning priesthood, but rather a serving priesthood, a people set apart to offer spiritual sacrifices to God, all summed up in the offering of our very best sacrifice: our whole self, Rom 12.1
 - D. Our faith in Christ as God's Messiah, our Saviour, is a faith that will never put us to shame and will instead cause us to be honored by God.
 - 1. Our hopes in Christ will never disappoint us. Even on the Day of Judgment, a day that will strike terror in the hearts of the wicked (Rev 6.15-17), we will rejoice in our God, Isa 25.9

Reflections for Application

- I. See how well placed your faith is, placed in the Father's Favorite.
 - A. His rejection by men can neither take away from who He is nor rob Him of the glory of being the Redeemer or you of your honor as the redeemed of the Lord, 2Tim 4.8
 - B. Hold fast; keep the faith; and stand your ground—upon Him.
- II. Don't lose heart over the great number of those who reject Him, for this is God's will, v.8; 1Cor 1.21. His Son will be revealed to those who deny themselves and believe on Him for salvation, Mt 11.25-28
 - A. God's not surprised by the world's rejection of His Son and neither should you be. Rather, be surprised that you ever began to love Him, Eph 2.4-5; 1Jn 4.19
- III. Let the glory of your Redeemer in these verses and the great privileges you have in Him, be the motivation you need to press on and persevere in the faith in the face of a hateful and persecuting world, for you will never be put to shame for believing in Him.