



Epistle of 1 Peter

1 Peter 2:4-6 - God's Corner Stone and Identity with Christ *Part 1*

É *1 Peter 2:4 – “Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,”*

ó What comes to mind when you think about *coming* (present tense, habitual action, even now) to the Lord (Jesus Christ – implied by what follows) *as a living stone*?

É This is both a metaphor and oxymoron, indicating that He is strong as stone, our foundation, and alive!

ó *Isa 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.*

» *Dan 2:34,45 Zech 3:9 4:7* are additional OT prophecies of Christ as the stone.

ó Constable ó Here Peter began to give the basis on which the four preceding exhortations rest. These exhortations were: be holy (*1:13-16*), be fearing (*1:17-21*), be loving (*1:22-25*), and be consuming the Word (*2:1-3*). They grow out of our relationship to God who has begotten us.ø

É And don't you find the following verses in *Matthew* of great interest?



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ó *Matt 16:16-18 - Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the **living God**." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. "And I also say to you that **you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.***

ó *rejected (disallowed, perfect tense) indeed by men (all of us).*

ó Peter is reiterating what Christ Himself had proclaimed in all 3 of the synoptic gospels (*Matt 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 9:22*) and what he stated to the Sanhedrin (*Acts 4:11*) - "Have you never read in the Scriptures":

ó *Psalms 118:22,23 - 'The **stone** which the builders rejected
Has become the chief **cornerstone**.
This was the Lord's doing,
And it is marvelous in our eyes' ?*

ó *but chosen (elected) by God and precious (held in high honor),*

É But because the trinity exists eternally, how do we interpret *chosen*?

ó *Isa 8:14 – He will be as a sanctuary, But a **stone of stumbling and a rock of offense** To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*



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ó *Isa 42:1 - Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon Him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.*

É *1 Peter 2:5 – “you (ye) also, as living (lively) stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

ó Another metaphor - how often do we think of ourselves as *living stones*?

É How does this for identification!

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ó *1 Cor 3:11 - For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

ó *1 Cor 3:16 - Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

É And this is for not only each one of us but the church, *a spiritual house*.

ó *Heb 3:6 - but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope*

Slide 3

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ó *being built up (passive tense, indicative) a spiritual house,*

É None but the Hungry Heart, April 3 ó ÷A ministry of life, whether it be at the kitchen sink or from the First Church pulpit, must flow from the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. í í Our Lord is more concerned for a testimony than for a work.ø

ó *Eph 2:20 - having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,*

ó *Col 2:6,7 - As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving.*

ó *a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

É Peter refers to us as being part of a *holy priesthood*.

ó McCalley ó ÷The priesthood of believers is referred to in *Rev 1:6, 5:10, and 20:6*. Note that in these passages we are king-priests. A believer could not be merely a priest. The reason is found in the book of Hebrews. Jesus Christ is a priest after the order of Melchizedek who was king and priest. Those connected with Christ are therefore king-priests.ø



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É What kind of *spiritual sacrifices* are these and do they relate to our everyday lives?

- ó And aren't we glad that the *spiritual sacrifices* that the Lord asked of us are not those done by OT priests.
 - » *Heb 7:27 - who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.*
- ó And don't we so often think of such sacrifices in the flesh, i.e. what do I need to give up?
- ó Whatever, *sacrifices* must be *acceptable to God through (by) Jesus Christ.*
 - » *Rom 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*
 - » *Heb 13:15,16 - Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*
 - » *Col 3:17 - And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

É **1 Peter 2: 6 – “Therefore it is also contained (present**



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*active) in the Scripture (Isa 28:16), “Behold, I lay in Zion
A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes
on Him will by no means be put to shame.”*

ó *Zion* refers to the heavenly Jerusalem, and *chief cornerstone, elect, precious* (v2:4) is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

ó *Rev 21:14* - *Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*

ó *1 Cor 3:11* - *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

ó Notice *he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame (disappointed, confounded)* – how would this have been interpreted by those in the OT, did they have any excuse?

É But as Paul addressed the Jews in *Rom 9*:

ó *Rom 9:33* - *As it is written (Isa 8:14): “Behold, I lay in Zion a **stumbling stone and rock of offense**, and whoever believes on Him **will not be put to shame**”*

ó *Zech 10:4* - *From Him comes **the cornerstone**, from him **the nail**, from him **the battle bow**, from him **every despot together**.*