

The Corner Stone

BY B. G. ECHOLS

The corner stone was the chief and most important stone in the building for from it all the lines were drawn and measured. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, the Lord.

"Because it is contained in scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: And he that believeth on him shall not be put to shame" (1 Pet. 2:6). The quotation is from Isa. 28:16. The quotation is not word for word, but rather of the sense or meaning of the reference.

God the Father is the Master Builder. He laid the corner stone. Jesus did not become chief corner stone by accident or by His own initiative. God did not lay down a foundation of man or men. We must be satisfied with what God lays down. A chief corner stone suggests one foundation. One foundation suggests only one house to be built - not numerous houses. Christ was chosen by God in His eternal purpose. He was precious to God; held in high honor of God; worthy of His love; faultless in beauty and strength.

Peter uses the word "him" to refer back to the stone. Thus we know Isaiah's prophecy applied figuratively to a person. The

steadfastness of Christ as the foundation will make those who build on Him steadfast and precious. Their hearts are stayed on Him. They are calm and unflurried in attitude. The worth of Christ is ours only if we believe. How can Christ's sacrifice benefit me if I don't believe? How can there be a connection between us except through my trust in Him? "Believeth" is present. As long as we continue to believe, that long shall we not be put to shame. Sin and punishment put us to shame. Faith is the remedy. Those who build their lives on other foundations will stand aghast when they feel the foundation crumbling away in some hour of supreme need. Sin always brings ultimate shame, but the life of obedient faith will assure us that we shall never stumble nor be put to shame.

The preciousness of the foundation to God is shared by those who believe in Him. "For you therefore that believe is the preciousness: but for such as disbe-

lieve, The stone which the builders rejected, The same is made the head of the corner" (1 Pet. 2:7). Whatever makes Him precious in the sight of God we may partake of, and so be accepted and precious to God. As the life of the foundation passes from the Stone to the stones built upon it, so does its preciousness. These early Christians were despised and persecuted by men, but what were they to God? That is comfort and consolation.

The word "but" is used to make a strong contrast to what is said before. Unbelief is the root of all disobedience. The very thing which they opposed and fought against so strongly will take place. Yet many will still not learn, but continue to oppose. The priests and teachers of the Jews rejected the Living Stone, but that Stone became the Head. They had a great opportunity, but wasted it in unbelief. The Eternal Architect overruled the builders to carry out His purpose. How many who are trying to build a better world leave Christ out? How many who are trying to build churches leave Christ out? It is the spirit of humility and obedience that leads men to esteem Christ and build on Him.

Those who are disobedient find the Stone a stumbling block. "And, a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; for they stumble

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at the word, being disobedient: whereunto they were appointed" (1 Pet. 2:8). Rejected truth is obviously dangerous. There is a risk of stumbling over Jesus rather than deriving any benefit from Him (Mt. 11:6). We cannot be neutral concerning Jesus. He must either be the chief corner stone of our lives, or a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense (1 Cor. 1:23, 24). The idea of utter calamity is expressed for those who through unbelief are opposed to Christ. The rude awakening is in contrast to the preciousness of believers.

Theirs was a willful opposition in unbelief. Disobedience is the natural fruit of unbelief. It is no small matter to reject the Son of God and to despise Him Who died upon the cross. They stumble "at the word." Yet they stumble over Christ. Thus the word is the revelation of Christ. We have no other revelation of Him. God has indeed appointed the unbelieving and disobedient unto stumbling. The choice is ours; the result is His. Perseverance in disobedience must end in everlasting death. The one who rejects Christ shall perish.

EVOLUTION

Author Unknown

A Fatherless Universe.
A Mindless World of Matter.
A Building Without Blue-Prints.
A House Without a Home.
A Family Without a Mother.
A Body Without a Soul.
A History Without a Goal.
A Religion Without Hope.
A Humanity Without Help.
A Society Without Law.
An Institution Without LOVE.
A Day Without Life.
A Night Without End.
A Fog Without Lift.
A Gloom That Depresses.
A Spirit That Chills.
A Philosophy Without Logic.
A Science Without Facts.
A Theory Without Reality.
A Wound Without Healing.
A Disease Without a Doctor.
A World Without GOD.

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