

## #5 Christ as the Stone-Savior Producing Living Stones for God's Building

(ITERO) 2018/12/10-12/16

**I . In Acts 4:10-12 we see that as the cornerstone Christ was despised and crucified by the Jewish leaders, the builders, but raised from the dead by God, becoming the cornerstone of God's building with God's salvation being uniquely in Him.**

**Acts 4:10** Let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified and whom God has raised from the dead, in this name this man stands before you in good health.

**11** This is the stone which was considered as nothing by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.

**12** And there is salvation in no other, for neither is there another name under heaven given among men in which we must be saved.

**II . Psalm 118 speaks of Christ as the cornerstone for God's building:**

**A.** "The stone which the builders rejected / Has become the head of the corner" (**Psa. 118:22**): **Psa. 118:23** This is from Jehovah; It is wonderful in our sight.

**24** This is the day that Jehovah has made; Let us exult and rejoice in it.

① The Lord Jesus quoted this verse in Matthew 21:42, where He was indicating that He is the stone for God's building.

② Christ is the cornerstone for the building up of the church in the New Testament age.

③ From the Lord's word in Matthew 21:42, Peter came to know the Lord as the precious stone held in honor by God.

**B.** On the day of His resurrection the Lord Jesus was made the cornerstone by God:

① Christ was chosen by God in eternity past to be the cornerstone for God's spiritual building.

**1 Pet. 1:20** Who was foreknown before the foundation of the world but has been manifested in the last of times for your sake,

② The Jewish leaders as the builders rejected Him to the uttermost, to such an extent that they put Him on the cross.

③ God chose Christ as the cornerstone a second time in Christ's resurrection, thereby confirming His initial choosing of Christ in eternity past.

④ After God resurrected Christ, He uplifted Him to the heavens:

**a.** Christ's ascension to Zion in the heavens is a further confirmation that God had chosen Him to be the cornerstone.

**Isa. 28:16** Therefore thus says The Lord Jehovah: Indeed I lay a stone in Zion as a foundation, A tested stone, A precious cornerstone as a foundation firmly established; He who believes will not hasten away.

**b.** Both Christ's resurrection and His ascension prove and confirm that He is the One whom God has chosen to be the head of the corner for God's building. **[Mon]**

**C.** As the all-inclusive stone, Christ is the centrality of God's move for the building up of His eternal habitation:

**Matt. 21:42** Jesus said to them, Have you never read in the Scriptures, "The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner. This was from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes"?

**Eph. 2:19** So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;

① Everything Christ is, everything He has done, and everything He is doing are due to the fact that He is the cornerstone.

② It is by His being the cornerstone that He could die for us, that we could be crucified with Him, made alive with Him, resurrected with Him, and seated with Him in the heavenlies, and that He could save us, transform us into precious stones, and build us together to be God's habitation, God's unique temple in the universe. **[Tue]**

**III . In Acts 4:10-12 Peter proclaimed Christ as the Stone-Savior:**

**Acts 4:11** This is the stone which was considered as nothing by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner.

**12** And there is salvation in no other, for neither is there another name under heaven given among men in which we must be saved.

**A.** Peter's quoting Psalm 118 indicates that he preached Christ not only as the Savior for the salvation of sinners but also as the stone for God's building:

① It is such a Christ who is the unique salvation to sinners.

② It is in His unique name under heaven, a name despised and rejected by the Jewish leaders but honored by God, that sinners must be saved not only from sin but also to participate in God's building.

**Phil. 2:9** Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

**10** That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

**Matt. 1:21** And she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.

**B.** Christ is not only the holy One, the righteous One, the Author of life, and the Servant; He is

also the stone for God's building:

① This stone is the unique One in whom we can be saved.

② Christ is the Stone-Savior; as the Stone-Savior, He is solid, strong, and reliable.

③ We can be saved only in the name of Jesus, and Jesus is the stone; this means that we have a Stone-Savior.

C. In Christ God came in incarnation to be a stone for the building of God's universal habitation:

① At first, Christ was a common stone, and the Jewish leaders rejected Him by killing Him.

② God honored Him by raising Him from the dead and making Him a cornerstone, the prominent stone, that joins the walls of a building.

③ As the cornerstone of God's habitation, Christ joins the wall of the Jewish believers and the wall of the Gentile believers. [Wed]

IV. Christ as the Stone-Savior is producing living stones for God's building, God's spiritual house:

1 Pet. 2:6 For it is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen and precious; and he who believes on Him shall by no means be put to shame." 7 To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, "The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner," 8 And, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; who stumble at the word, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.

A. For us as believers, the resurrected Christ is the propagating stone and the building stone:

① First, we became His propagation, and now He is building us up together into God's dwelling place.

② As the Stone-Savior in God's economy, Christ is both the Builder and the material for God's building.

Matt. 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. [Thu]

B. Through the Lord's speaking in John 1:42 and Matthew 16:18, Peter received the revelation that both Christ and the believers are living stones for God's building and eventually realized that God's goal is to have a spiritual house built up with living stones:

John 1:42 He led him to Jesus. Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter).

1 Pet. 2:4 Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious, 5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

① First Peter 2:4 speaks of Christ as a living stone:

a. A living stone is one that not only possesses life but also grows in life; this is Christ for God's building.

b. As life to us, Christ is the seed; for God's building, He is the stone.

c. After receiving Him as the seed of life, we need to grow so that we may experience Him as the stone living in us.

1 Pet. 1:23 Having been regenerated not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God.

2:2 As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation,

d. In this way He makes us living stones, transformed with His divine nature, so that we may be built up together with others as a spiritual house upon Him as both the foundation and the cornerstone.

② In Christ and through Christ we, as believers, become living stones to be built up as a spiritual house:

a. We are living stones through regeneration and transformation.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

b. We were created of clay (Rom. 9:21), but at regeneration we received the seed of life, which by its growth in us transforms us into living stones. [Fri]

③ The spiritual house into which we are being built up is God's building:

Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; 22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

a. Eventually, this building will consummate in the New Jerusalem, the stone City.

b. We are becoming the precious stones that will be built up into the New Jerusalem.

c. This process takes place as we daily contact Christ, the living stone for God's building, and are transformed.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect. [Sat]

## **Experience①: Experience Christ as the cornerstone**

On the day of His resurrection the Lord Jesus was made the cornerstone by God. Christ was chosen by God in eternity past to be the cornerstone for God's spiritual building. Then, the Jewish leaders as the builders rejected Him to the uttermost, to such an extent that they put Him on the cross. God chose Christ as the cornerstone a second time in Christ's resurrection, thereby confirming His initial choosing of Christ in eternity past. After God resurrected Christ, He uplifted Him to the heavens. Christ's ascension to Zion in the heavens was a further confirmation that God had chosen Him to be the cornerstone. Both Christ's resurrection and His ascension prove and confirm that He is the One whom God has chosen to be the head of the corner for God's building.

### **For Junior & Senior High School / College Students**

**Eph. 2:20** Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone; **21** In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; **22** In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

FN[the cornerstone]: Here, Christ is referred to not as the foundation but as the cornerstone, because the main concern here is not the foundation but the cornerstone that joins together the two walls, one wall being the Jewish believers, and the other, the Gentile believers. ...When the Jewish builders rejected Christ, they rejected Him as the cornerstone, the One who would join the Gentiles to them for the building of God's house.

Christ as the cornerstone joins the Jews and the Gentiles, that is joining the different people for the building. You should not fellowship only with those who go along with you. This is not the building. Christ as the cornerstone will join you with the different people to reach the building.

**Prayer**: Oh Lord Jesus, You are the cornerstone for the building. This stone will join me with the people who are different from me in personality and in function. Let me reject my natural life, making Christ as my life to be built up together with the different people. Amen!

## **Experience②: The only name which can save us: the name of Jesus**

**Acts 4:12** says, "And there is salvation in no other, for neither is there another name under heaven given among men in which we must be saved." This verse is often used in the preaching of the gospel. But have you ever heard it used in relation to verse 11? **Acts 4:11** says, "This is the stone which was considered as nothing by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner." These verses indicate that the stone in verse 11 is the Savior. The stone despised by the builders has become the head of the corner, and there is no salvation in any other name. We can be saved only in the name of Jesus, and Jesus is the stone. This means that we have a Stone-Savior. In the four Gospels we have the King-Savior in Matthew, the Slave-Savior in Mark, the Man-Savior in Luke, and the God-Savior

in John. Now in the book of Acts we have the Stone-Savior. Our Savior is not only the King, a Slave, a Man, and God—He is also a stone for God's building.

### **For new ones**

**Matt. 1:21** And she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.

FN[Jesus]: Jesus means Jehovah the Savior, or the salvation of Jehovah. Hence, Jesus is not only a man but Jehovah, and not only Jehovah but Jehovah becoming our salvation. Thus, He is our Savior.

**Rom. 10:9** That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** For with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation. **11** For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes on Him shall not be put to shame." **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him; **13** For "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

FN[Calling on the name of the Lord]: Calling on the name of the Lord is the secret not only to our salvation but also to our enjoyment of the Lord's riches. Beginning with Enosh, the third generation of mankind, and continuing all the way down to the New Testament believers, God's chosen and redeemed ones enjoyed Christ's redemption and salvation and all His riches by means of this secret. FN[Be saved]: To be saved here means to be brought into the enjoyment of the riches of the Lord. The Lord is rich to both Jews and Greeks. All who call on the Lord's name enjoy this rich Lord; as a result, they are filled with Him and express Him.

**Phil. 2:9** Therefore also God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** And every tongue should openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

**A high school brother's testimony**: When I met my classmate whom I wasn't in good relation with on the train, I start talking to him hoping to improve the relationship. He used to be so hard, but as we talked he got softer and we enjoyed the conversation. Later I noticed that this was the blessing from the Lord. So I called on the name of the Lord and could thank Him and give glory to Him. Every blessing comes from the Lord. So I am training myself to thank the Lord as soon as I get blessed.

**A working young sister's testimony**: The office I am working for is so busy, making me panic and emotional. At such time, I called on the name of the Lord many times to calm my mind. In this way, I could have sober mind and set priority and consult with my boss in a right way. Praise the Lord's name.



II Tim. 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness.

**Prayer:** Praise the name of the Lord Jesus. This name is the only name which can save us. And the Lord supplies richly those who call on this name. If I call on the name of the Lord, my spirit and heart get richer. Oh Lord Jesus, let me start a day by calling on Your name and keep calling on the name of the Lord all the day to participate in the Lord's riches.

Hymn 208 Praise of the Lord - Satisfaction with Him

1.

O Jesus, Jesus, dearest Lord!  
Forgive me if I say,  
For very love, Thy sacred name  
A thousand times a day.

(C)

O Jesus, Lord, with me abide;  
I rest in Thee, whate'er betide;  
Thy gracious smile is my reward;  
I love, I love Thee, Lord!

### **Experience③: Experience Christ as the Stone-Savior**

We all must realize that we cannot serve God by ourselves individually. We must serve in coordination with others. One stone can never be a house; it must be built up together with other stones to form a building. It is impossible for an individual Christian to constitute the priesthood. This means, strictly speaking, that if there is no building, there is no real service to God. It is only when we are built together that proper service can be rendered to God. Real service to God is a matter of the building.

Service always follows building. If there were no tabernacle, there could be no priests to serve. As Christians, we are individual persons, but we cannot be individualistic Christians. We cannot serve the Lord independent of others. Each individual priest must be coordinated with all the other priests. It is a dreadful thing to attempt to serve the Lord apart from the proper church life, apart from being built up with others. We must be built together as the priesthood to serve God in the building, the church, in a coordinated way. If we long for the milk of the word, this milk will be like a current of living water flowing within us. As we stay in this flow, the current will carry away our natural substance and replace it with Christ as heavenly, divine minerals. Gradually, over a period of time, we will be transformed.

### **For young working saints / graduate students**

Lord Jesus was rejected and crucified by the Jewish leaders but resurrected by God and became the corner stone for the building.

Act4:10 Let it be known to you all and to all the people of Israel that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified and whom God has raised from the dead, in this name this man stands before you in good health. 11 This is the stone which was considered as nothing by you, the builders, which has become the head of the corner. 12 And there is salvation in no other, for neither is

there another name under heaven given among men in which we must be saved.

**FN** The stone which has become the head of the corner]: Peter's quoting of this word indicates that he preached Christ not only as the Savior for the sinners' salvation but also as the stone for God's building. It is such a Christ who is the unique salvation to sinners, and it is in His unique name under heaven, a name despised and rejected by the Jewish leaders but honored and exalted by God, that sinners must be saved not only from sin but also to participate in God's building

Because Lord Jesus is the Stone-Savior, He will save you from sin and bring you to building. Building is to grow with brothers and sisters in the church life. In order to grow together, it is necessary to supply and support each other. God's economy is not to have many spiritual individuals. God wants the body to be built up. To be built up, you should "not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also. (Phil. 2:4)" You should love and respect other limbs, pray for them, and supply Christ to them. Also, they should pray for you and you should receive supply from them. The body that was built to express God corporately and make Satan fear.

**Brother's testimony:** I have two older sisters. Not only my mother but also my two older sisters looked after me carefully from my young age. For example, even after I became a college student and left my home, I rarely went to buy clothes by myself. Because my sisters bought and sent clothes to me. This kind of thing also affected me. My ability on food, clothing, living was extremely low, and I could not do anything on my own.

After marriage, it is often pointed out that "your living ability is low" from my wife, my sister. After marriage, including money management, I rely almost completely on my sister about these things. With such help, I can concentrate on work and the service of the church. As I later noticed, relying on people because of their shortcoming is not necessarily a bad thing (This does not mean that my shortcomings do not have to be changed). There are various limbs in the body, and there are various functions. You need to evaluate the strengths of others, not just your own strengths. In the service of the church, we get help from other brothers and sisters in many other things. Without such help, I won't function properly and I can't fulfill my portion. Since we are each other limbs and form one body, it is very important for building to learn to depend on each other, to love each other and to support each other.

**Prayer:** O Lord Jesus, you are the Stone-Savior. When calling on your name, I will not only be saved from sin, but also from individualism and brought to the building. In order to be built with brothers and sisters, I respect other limbs, love them, supply them with Christ and get supply of Christ from them. What God wants is not a lot of individuals, but a built corporate new man. I consecrate myself for the building. May the body of Christ be built up more and more in the church life. Amen!