**Building a Good Foundation, #2**

**Jesus Christ: the *Stone of Stumbling* and *Rock of Offense***

In the previous lesson on this topic (about a month ago), we examined both *“Why Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone?”* and *“Why the apostles and prophets are the “foundation” of God’s household?”* from Eph.2:20-21. Subsequent lessons have dealt mostly with various issues pertaining to *the Wisdom* and *Word of God/Christ, Exactly what is “the gospel” of Jesus Christ,* and issues related the *Means and Methods of Evangelism* with *the Gospel.* However…

Today I’d like to turn our attention to **1Pet.2:6-8**, where Peter quotes from Isa.28:16; Psa.118:22; and Isa.8:14 concerning Jesus Christ as the ***choice*****and *precious cornerstone****.*  Please note from:

* v.6 that those who *believe in Him “shall not be disappointed.”*
* v.7 that though of *“precious value”* to the *believer,* this *cornerstone* was *“rejected”* by those who *disbelieve;* and,
* v.8a that to those *disbelievers, He* became a ***“stone of stumbling”***and a ***“rock of offense…”***

But why would a (in fact *the*) *choice* and *precious cornerstone* be rejected and become instead a ***stumbling stone***and a ***rock of offense****?* **Was it because:**

* They weren’t aware of the ***miracles*** and ***signs*** He performed that *proved* His *origin, power,* and *purpose?* No, it wasn’t that, cf. John 3:2; 9:33; 10:38; 11:47.
* They didn’t know how He **fulfilled every OT prophecy** regarding the Messiah, and how these *testified* His identity? How could they not know, cf. Matt.11:3-6; 23:34-38?
* They didn’t realize He ***died for their sins****?* Nope, cf. Matt.27:25; John 11:49-50; and Acts 5:28.
* They didn’t understand what His ***resurrection***meant? Hardly, Matt.28:11-15; cf. Acts 2:24,32; 3:15,26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30,33,34,37

No, those were not the reason(s) Jesus was *rejected* and *stumbled over****.* Instead it was:**

* **Jealousy,** John 12:9-11,17-19;
* Their own **thirst for *position* and *power****,* John 11:47-48; and perhaps most importantly,
* They ***stumbled***over His ***words,***1Pet.2:8b; John 6:60-61 (cf.vv.41-59); 11:10; 16:1; cp.Matt.11:6; and,
* They were ***offended***by what He ***said/taught****,* Matt.13:53-57; 15:7-12.

Has anything really changed regarding *why* people today ***stumble over***or are ***offended***(and ***reject***) the *choice* and *precious cornerstone,* Jesus Christ?

* People are *aware of His* ***miracles****-* John 20:30-31; and,
* People *know* **He *fulfilled prophecies****-*  11 times Matt. alone specifies that Jesus *fulfilled the prophets,* Matt.2:15,17,23; e.g.; and,
* People surely know was ***crucified for our sins***and ***raised from the dead****,* Acts 17:31; Rom.1:1-5. But…
* They are ***lovers of self***and ***money, boastful***and***arrogant****,* 2Tim.3:1-5;
* They are unwilling to **give up/over** ***their position, power****,* and ***lives****,* Luke 14:26-27; Matt.13:19-22;
* They ***stumble* over *His words****,* 1Cor.1:18-25;and
* They are ***offended***by what He ***teaches****,* 2Thess.3:10,12.

**Behold, Jesus the Christ:**

Either the ***choice***and ***precious cornerstone*** *“in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit,”* Eph.2:21-22; or…

The *“****stone*** *the builders* ***rejected****…* *a* ***stone of stumbling*** *and a* ***rock of offense****,”* 1Pet.2:7-8.

**Which will He be for** ***you?***