

Camp Copass Boys Camp 2006

Cornerstone – Building for God’s Kingdom

Bible Study #2

Cornerstone or Stumbling Stone

Memory Verse: Isaiah 28:16

Bible Study Text: Ephesians 2:19-22

Object: To help boys realize that having Jesus as the most important part of their lives allows them to build a life that is pleasing to God.

The early Romans were experts in developing what came to be known as the Roman Arch, a special architectural design that featured an arch made of stones such that the last stone placed right in the top, middle of the arch held all the other stones in place. Some of these arches from 2000 years ago are still standing. The last stone to be placed in the arch was the most important one. It had to fit exactly and it was called the “**keystone**” or sometimes the “**capstone.**”

In a similar way, in a building made of stones, the first stone to be placed in the building was called the “**cornerstone.**” It was the most important stone in the building because it determined the position and alignment of all the other stones. For the building to be built squarely and strong the cornerstone must be perfectly square and perfectly aligned.

Once when I was a missionary in Africa I had to find a house for my family to live in. For a time I looked at houses that had been built by local builders. One house I visited had long hallways with walls that were so crooked they looked like a wave going in and out. This house had not been built squarely! It had no cornerstone. Finally, I decided to build my own house. I remember the day the builder laid out the building. He used a carpenter’s square to mark the walls so the building would be straight and true.

In our memory verse today, the Sovereign Lord says that He Himself has already laid a “tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation.” What does He mean?

Our text from Ephesians 2:19-22 helps us understand that Jesus Christ Himself is the “**Chief Cornerstone.**” God has given us the cornerstone for our lives. It is His Son Jesus. Notice what God says about this cornerstone (Jesus).

1. He is tested (Isaiah 28:16) He was the only one who could fulfill God’s righteous requirements to be a model and example to others. He was made exactly like us in His humanity, but He had no sin. Only He can qualify to become our cornerstone.

2. He is precious. When God presented Jesus to the world at His baptism, this is what He said about Him, “This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). God wanted us to have a very sure foundation and cornerstone upon which to build our lives. So He gave us His very best gift, His own dear Son, Jesus Christ.

If we build our lives around Him we can never go wrong. It is when we try to make our own plan or design and build our lives without Him that we make wrong choices and can even ruin our lives.

Notice in our memory verse that God says “the one who trusts will never be dismayed.”

That means if you put your faith and trust in Jesus you will never be disappointed, and you will never have to fear that the storms or difficulties of life will be more than you can bear. He will never fail you. You will never have to worry about your life falling apart at the seams. Your spiritual foundations and walls will never crumble.

But the Bible also says that the “Cornerstone” may become a “**Stumbling Stone**” to those who refuse to believe in Jesus. (See 1 Peter 2:7-8) For those who do not want to build their lives around Jesus, that very stone that could have been their guide will become for them something to stumble over. In other words, Jesus will eventually become their judge.

We must choose – either Jesus will be our cornerstone or our stumbling stone.

Questions for Discussion

1. How do we know that Jesus is the cornerstone that God has laid in this world for us to trust and to build our lives on? Can you think of some verses that tell us this truth? John 3:16, Ephesians 2:20, and Matthew 3:17)
2. Would you like to live in a house where the walls were not straight or the floor was soft and full of holes? How would that make you feel? Why is it important for the walls to be straight and the floor solid?
3. Can you imagine the walls of your life being built strong and straight for Jesus? What does this mean to you?
4. Have you ever stumbled over a rock in your path? Did you fall and hurt yourself? What does it mean to you to say that Jesus is either our cornerstone or a stumbling stone?
5. Are you trusting in Jesus right now as your Savior?

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