

A Study of The Epistle of 1st Peter

Theme: "A LIVING HOPE!"

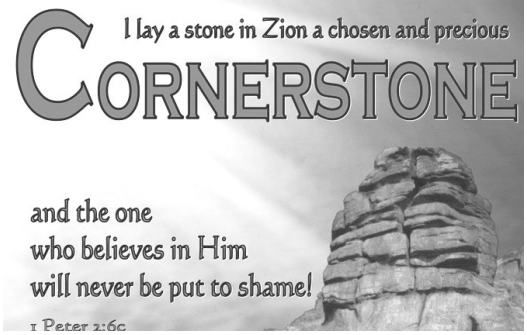
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Lesson: 13

Chapter 2:6-8

Date: 10-25-20



BIBLE TEXT:

(1 Peter 2:6-8)

(6) For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying **in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious**, and whoever believes in **him** will not be put to shame."

(7) So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "**The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,**" (8) and "**A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.**" They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

STUDY NOTES:

(6) For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying **in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious**, and whoever believes in **him** will not be put to shame."

(Ps 118:22; Is 28:16; Rom 9:33; 10:11)

(7) So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"**The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,**"

(Mt 21:42; 2 Cor 2:16)

(8) and "**A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.**" They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

(Is 8:14; Lk 2:34; Rom 9:22,33; Jude 4)

Luther's Works – Volume 30

"To you therefore who believe, He is precious, but for those who do not believe, The very Stone which the builders rejected has become the Head of the corner, and A Stone that will make men stumble, a Rock that will make them fall."

To be sure, says Peter, **the good and precious Stone** is precious and honorable to some. On the other hand, many do not regard It as precious but look upon It as offensive and as **a Stone** over which one stumbles. How does this happen? Scripture speaks about It in two ways, namely, that some believe in It and, on the other hand, that many do not believe. To those who believe, It is precious. My heart must rejoice when I put my trust and comfort in It. Therefore the apostle says: "To you therefore who believe, **He is precious.**"

This means that you hold **Him in high esteem**. For even though **He is precious and good in Himself**, this does not profit me and does not help me. **Therefore He must be precious** to us by bestowing many precious goods on us, like a precious gem which does not keep its power to itself but breaks forth and radiates all its power, so that I have everything it is.

The unbelievers, however, do not regard **Christ as such a precious Stone**. No, they reject Him and are offended by **Him**. Therefore He is not a source of comfort to them but is harmful and offensive,

even though in **Himself He** is comforting. These are not only the gross public sinners but rather the great saints, who rely on their free will, on their works and piety. They must run into and collide with **this Stone**. Here **God** decrees that those who enter without works will come to righteousness solely through faith. But the others do not attain this; for, as St. Paul says in Rom. 10:3, they want to acquire it through their own piety.

St. Peter says that this has become **“the very Stone which the builders rejected.”** Here he condenses Scripture, but he quotes the passage from Ps. 118:22 to which he referred above: **“The Stone which the builders rejected has become the chief Cornerstone.”** I have explained sufficiently who the builders are. They are those who teach, preach the Law, and want to make people pious through works. They agree with **Christ** as winter and summer agree. Therefore the preachers who preach about works must reject **this Stone**.

Moreover, the apostle takes another statement, one from the prophet Isaiah, who wrote in chapter 8:13–14 that what St. Peter says here would happen. The prophet says: **“Let Him [the Lord of hosts] be your fear, and let Him be your dread. And He will become a sanctuary, and a stone of offense, and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel.”** This is what the prophet means: **The Lord shall become a sanctuary** unto you, that is, He shall be sanctified in your hearts. You need have no other holiness, neither this nor that, except that you believe. To the others He will be **a Stone of stumbling and of offense**.

But what is meant by offense and colliding or stumbling? This is what is meant: When one preaches **Christ** and says: **“Behold, this Stone** is placed as a foundation in order that you may despair completely of yourself and lose heart, regard your own works and piety as something altogether damnable, rely solely on Him, and believe that **Christ’s righteousness** is your righteousness.” When those people hear this, they recoil, stumble, and are offended. They say: **“What? Do you mean to say that chastity, celebrating Mass, and similar good works amount to nothing? The devil tells you to say this.”** They cannot adjust themselves to the thought that what they undertake to do is not good, but they think that it is pleasing **to God**. They even quote passages from Scripture and say: **“God** has commanded us to do good works.”

When one chooses to refute them, they begin to shout: **“Heretic! Heretic! Fire! Fire!”** Therefore they cannot endure **the Stone** and want to overturn It. Thus they collide with **this Stone** and cannot avoid being crushed by It, as **Christ** says in Matt. 21:42, 44: **“Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The very Stone which the builders rejected has become the Head of the corner?’ ... And he who falls on this Stone will be broken to pieces; but when It falls on anyone, It will crush him.”** Therefore do as you please, **this Stone** is no joke. It has been laid, and It will remain in position. He who wants to collide with It and scoff at It will have to cave in.

This is the stumbling and the offense about which Scripture says a great deal. Thus the Jews stumble over **this Stone** to this day, and they will continue to do so until **the Last Day comes**. Then **this Stone** will fall on all unbelievers and crush them. Therefore even though **Christ is such a choice and precious Stone**, yet through no fault of His He must also be called **“a Stone** that will make men stumble, **a Rock** that will make them fall.”

And just as the Jews have done, so we also always do today. For just as they boasted with **God’s name** that they were **God’s people**, so it happens today too. **Christ** is denied today under **the name of Christ** and the Christian Church, and **the precious Stone** is rejected. **He comes** because they should reject their works. But this they cannot endure, and they reject **Him**.

LIFE APPLICATION:

Since the honor is for you who believe and whoever believes in **him** will not be put to shame, how does this give you confidence in this life and the next life?