

January 5, 2020

“Building Blocks for Life:
Adding to Your Spiritual Journey”
“**Building Blocks: The Cornerstone!**” Core13
“*The stone that the builders rejected has become the
Cornerstone.*” Psalm 118:22

A. A cornerstone...

“Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.” Isaiah 28:16

1. “The cornerstone (or foundation stone or setting stone) is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. All other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure”. –Wikipedia
2. “In relation to architecture, a cornerstone is traditionally the first stone laid for a structure, with all other stones laid in reference. A cornerstone marks the geographical location by orienting a building in a specific direction. Cornerstones have been around for millennia, in some shape or form.”
3. “The cornerstone, or foundation stone, of an edifice in ancient times was a perfectly squared stone from which the remainder of the building could be plumbed, squared and leveled. It provided the builder a point of departure, or reference, which insured that the structure would be properly built.”
4. “Historically, the cornerstone was the most important part of any building. The total weight of an edifice rested on this particular stone, which, if removed, would collapse the whole structure. The cornerstone was also the key to keeping the walls straight. The builders would take sightings along the edges of this part of the building. If the cornerstone was set properly, the stonemasons could be assured that all the other corners of the building would be at the appropriate angles as well. Thus, the cornerstone became a symbol for that which held life together.” –Back to the Bible

“Why do you confuse the issue? Why do you talk without knowing what you’re talking about? Pull yourself together, Job! Up on your feet! Stand tall! I have some questions for you, and I want some straight answers. Where were you when I created the earth? Tell Me, since you know so much! Who decided on its size? Certainly you’ll know that! Who came up with the blueprints and measurements? How was its foundation poured, and who set the cornerstone, while the morning stars sang in chorus and all the angels shouted praise? And who took charge of the ocean when it gushed forth like a baby

from the womb? That was me! I wrapped it in soft clouds, and tucked it in safely at night. Then I made a playpen for it, a strong playpen so it couldn’t run loose, and said, ‘Stay here, this is your place. Your wild tantrums are confined to this place.’” Job 38:2-11 The Message
“Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.’” Isaiah 28:16

B. When building into your spiritual journey, start with the Cornerstone...

“Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself.” Ephesians 2:20

1. We begin our spiritual lives by inviting Christ into our hearts and giving Him control of our lives!
2. We know who Jesus is by knowing His Word. We can trust the Bible!
3. When we invite Jesus into our lives, we are now part of a family – a family with similar characteristics and a common goal!
4. As we grow in our understanding, we grow in our likeness to Jesus!

“Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of His body, the church.” Ephesians 4:15
“For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” Romans 8:29

C. Little stones building on the Cornerstone...

“And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple.” 1 Peter 2:5a

1. Begin by preparing yourself as a pure stone.
“So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech.” 1 Peter 2:1
2. Crave pure spiritual milk as newborn babies and grow up!
“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness.” 1 Peter 2:2-3
3. Don’t stumble or make others stumble.
“They stumble because they do not obey God’s word...” 1 Peter 2:8b

4. You are part of a building...relationally connected and a place where God dwells.
“And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple.” 1 Peter 2:5

5. Treasure your new identity and protect it.
“Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God’s people....you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession.” 1 Peter 2:10a, 9b

6. Keep away from worldly desires that will destroy you.

“Dear friends, I warn you as ‘temporary residents and foreigners’ to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.” 1 Peter 2:11

7. Live your life carefully before unbelievers.
“Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when He judges the world.” 1 Peter 2:12

D. So, what do you need to do to make your life a better stone...to build on the Cornerstone?

1 Peter 2:1-17 The Message

So clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretense, envy and hurtful talk.

Is God speaking to your heart about cleaning house?

You’ve had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God’s pure kindness. Then you’ll grow up mature and whole in God.

Have you been immature in your spiritual journey?

Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honor. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you’ll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God.

Maybe you need a fresh surrender of yourself to God!

The Scriptures provide precedent:
Look! I’m setting a stone in Zion, a cornerstone in the place of honor. Whoever trusts in this Stone as a foundation will never have cause to regret it. To you who trust Him, He’s a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust Him, the Stone the workmen threw out is now the Chief Foundation Stone.

For the untrusting it's. . . a Stone to trip over, a Boulder blocking the way. They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted.
Is there an area of disobedience that you have indulged in...way too long?

But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do His work and speak out for Him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference He made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.
When was the last time you shared with an unbeliever the difference Jesus has made in your life?

Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul.
Have you become too comfortable in your life and your surroundings?

Live an exemplary life among the natives so that your actions will refute their prejudices. Then they'll be won over to God's side and be there to join in the celebration when He arrives.
How do others see your life? Is it the kind of life that makes others thirsty for God in theirs?

Make the Master proud of you by being good citizens.
Will God say "Well done!" or are there areas of your life that need to be cleaned up?

Respect the authorities, whatever their level; they are God's emissaries for keeping order.
God has placed all authority in our lives to teach us how to submit. Is your respect for authority evident?

It is God's will that by doing good, you might cure the ignorance of the fools who think you're a danger to society. Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules.
Is God prompting you to find a place to serve?

Treat everyone you meet with dignity.
Do you treat all people with respect? Or are you selective in your good treatment?

Love your spiritual family.
Do you evidence your love for fellow believers in how you live your life?

Revere God.
Are you conscious of your reverence for God...in your speech, your daily life, in your worship?

Respect the government.
"Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience."
Romans 13:1-5

January 12: Core 14 – Building Blocks: Add Wisdom
"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction." Proverbs 1:7