Introduction

A building is only as strong as its foundation. The same is true for our faith. Peter describes the church as a building with Christ as our firm foundation.

I. Jesus is the living Stone. Verses 4-5

There are several passages in the Old Testament that describe the Messiah as a stone. He is called:

- “A chosen and precious cornerstone” – Isaiah 28:16
- “The capstone” – Psalm 118:22
- “The stone that makes men stumble” – Isaiah 8:14

Peter calls Jesus the living Stone, because he died and rose again.

We are called “living stones”.

The church is a spiritual house.

- A house is where a family dwells.
- A house is where God dwells. The temple was called the House of God.

Not only are we the temple of God, we are the priests who serve in the temple.

II. Jesus is the Cornerstone. Verse 6

The cornerstone was the most important stone in the structure of the building.

- It gave direction to the building.
- It was a significant part of the foundation.
- It was costly.

All of those statements are true of Jesus Christ.

- He gives direction to the church.
- He is the foundation of the church.
- He laid down his life for the church.
III. Jesus is the Capstone. Verse 7

Peter quotes from Psalm 118:22 “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone.”

Psalms 113-118 are called the Hallel Psalms. Hallel means praise.

The capstone is different than the cornerstone. The capstone was the highest stone in a structure and it was placed there for everyone to see.

Jesus is the capstone. He is the head of the church.

IV. Jesus is the stone that makes men stumble. Verse 8

To those who believe, Jesus is precious.

To those who don’t believe, Jesus is the stone that makes them stumble.

C. S. Lewis describes how the Hound of Heaven tracked him down and how he finally surrendered his life to Christ.

“In the Trinity term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed; perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England. I did not see then what is now the most shining and obvious thing: the divine humility which will accept a convert on even such terms.”

Lewis was “surprised” by joy. The nagging, nameless longing that had haunted him for years and that he had tried alternately to satisfy and to deny now gave way to contentment. He had been looking for his answer in the wrong place.

Conclusion

What C. S. Lewis had been looking for all his life, he found when he surrendered his life to Christ.

Have you surrendered your life to Christ and asked him to be your Savior and Lord?

“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” Romans 10:9-10