

Our Cornerstone

Psalm 118:21-23



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Responsively Psalms 118:21-23 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. {22} **The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.** {23} **This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**^{KJV}

Sometime we all are guilty of reading Scripture without paying attention to what we're reading. To be blessed by God we need to understand - and apply - the teachings of God's Word to our lives. As our Lord said, "**Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and obey and practice it**" (Luke 11:28¹). You cannot obey what you do not understand. Let's seek to understand this text: "**The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner**", or literally, "**the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone**"². What is a "**Corner Stone**"? The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines it as:

"A stone at the corner of a building uniting two intersecting walls. Such a stone, often inscribed, laid at a ceremony marking the origin of a building"³

A corner stone joins two walls. A chief corner stone - such as our text discusses - is a special stone that joins two walls that sets that building apart.

The Psalmist, writing under the inspiration of God the

KJV All texts are King James Version (1769) unless otherwise noted. Other versions only used when needed for clarity.

1 Amplified Version

2 Amplified, Holman Christian, & New American Standard Versions

3 Third Edition, Page 419

Holy Spirit, says that this **Chief Corner Stone** was rejected by the builders as being unfit for whatever reason, but the LORD - Yahweh, the Eternal God - set this Stone apart as the Chief or Head Corner Stone.

Now that we know what a corner stone is, what is THIS Cornerstone? The **Apostle Peter preaching before the rulers and elders of Israel** said:

Acts 4:10-12 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.** {11} **This {Jesus} is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.** {12} **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

Jesus Christ is **The Chief Cornerstone** of our Psalms text. He was the Stone **rejected by the builders** - by the Scribes and Pharisees of Israel - and yet set apart by God Almighty as **the Head of the Corner, the Chief Cornerstone**. Peter, again quoting Psalm 118, says:

1 Peter 2:6-7 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, **Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.** {7} **Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner ...**

Jesus Christ is the **Stone which the builders disallowed, but Who is made the Head of the Corner. Those who believe on Jesus shall not be confounded!** Those who believe on Him shall *never* be ashamed, whereas those who believe in their own efforts at salvation shall be shamed.

Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone, the only thing the Father looks for in His redeemed. I am saved **not by works of righteousness that I have done, but according to His mercy He saved me. He saved me by making me alive from the dead, and by placing in me His Holy Spirit. This God did through Jesus Christ our Savior - our Cornerstone (Titus 3:5-6).** Because of Jesus our Cornerstone every believer is *marked as righteous, the property of God*. The Cornerstone joins two walls, joins God with man, but also *commemorates or marks the building*. The Christian saved by faith in Christ is no longer his own, but he is bought with a price so that he must glorify God in his body and in his spirit, which are God's (1 Corinthians 6:20).

1. Christ Our Cornerstone Joins The Believer With God

FOCAL Psalms 118:21-22 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. {22} **The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.**

The Psalmist was able to praise God for, he said, "**Thou God hast heard me and art become my salvation**".

Think about that for a moment. David didn't say "Thank You, Lord, for showing me how to work my way into Heaven". He didn't say "Thank You, Lord, that You showed me what works were acceptable in Your sight". No.

The Psalmist said "**Thou God hast heard me**". You heard my prayers. You heard my cry. And you answered that cry by "**becoming My salvation**". God *became* David's salvation. **He became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)**. He did this to **become your salvation and to become my salvation**.

King David wrote in another place:

Psalms 32:1 ... Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Each and every one of us stand before a perfect and Holy God. We oftentimes make the mistake of thinking of God as if He were a man. God did, indeed, take on flesh in order to make payment for our sins. But we must always remember that **God did this to BECOME OUR SALVATION**. We could not be saved apart from the Cornerstone that is Jesus Christ. God is perfect. God is holy. He is righteous, and just, and pure, and without flaw or any such thing. The ancient Job said of God:

Job 34:10, 12 ... far be it from God, that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity. ... {12} Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

God **cannot pervert judgment**. When He warned Adam not to eat of the forbidden fruit in the Garden His warning stood *forever* on *every child of Adam*.

God is like a righteous wall without spot and blemish, Who runs from infinity to infinity. Humanity is like a spotted wall, blemish with sin and transgressions. How can these two walls, One Pure and the other impure, be joined?

When God looks at humanity that which is righteous in Him wells up and says:

Isaiah 13:11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogance of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

and yet, **God is also merciful**. He loves His creation, fallen though we be. In our context we see the phrase "**His mercy endureth forever**" repeated *five times*:

CONTEXT Psalms 118:1-4 O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: because his mercy endureth forever. {2} Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth forever. {3} Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth forever. {4} Let them now that fear the LORD say, that his mercy endureth forever.

CONTEXT Psalms 118:29 O give thanks unto the

LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.

How can God satisfy both mercy and righteousness insofar as man is concerned? How can God, Perfect and Pure, be joined to that which is imperfect and filthy? There must be a Cornerstone!

The Bible tells us:

1 John 3:5 And ye know that {Jesus} was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

God the Son - perfect and holy, righteous as God is righteous (for He is God) - **was manifested to take away our sins**. Eternal God the Son willingly came from Heaven to this earth. Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, grew up holy and just. Jesus **knew no sin**. Being tempted of the devil, then of the devil's agents - the "builders" - over and over again no fault of sin was found in Him. When examined by **Pilate**, unbeliever that he was, that old pagan said of Christ:

John 18:38 ... I find in Him no fault at all.

Every law of God and man Jesus kept perfectly. **Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's (Matthew 22:21)**. Jesus offended no honest man nor did He offend the standards of God His Father.

The only ones who were offended by Jesus were the **self righteous "builders"**, the Scribes and the Pharisees who felt that they were above sin. These self righteous - **a smoke in God's nostrils (Isaiah 65:5)** stood against Christ, while He - the Chief Cornerstone - stood FOR all who would believe in Him.

Our Lord **Jesus loved righteousness and hated iniquity (Hebrews 1:9)**. He lived a perfect and a sinless life. Unlike Adam Jesus Christ lived perfectly, and, when God the Father so decreed, God the Son went to the Cross of Calvary to be punished for my sins and for yours. The Bible tells us that:

2 Corinthians 5:21 For {God the Father} hath made {God the Son} to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

It is His Blood and His suffering that bought our salvation. **We are made the righteousness of God in Christ** when we call upon His Name. Oh Blessed Christian, how wonderful it is to have our sins covered! How blessed we are! We stand with our forefather **Abraham** who, the Scripture says, **believed God and it was counted unto Abraham for righteousness (Romans 4:3)**. Abraham trusted Jesus, and - just as all who trust in Jesus - he was saved *forever*. As the Scripture says:

Romans 4:5-8 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith

is counted for righteousness. {6} Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, {7} Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. {8} Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

Those of you who have given your lives to Jesus by faith are covered. Your iniquities - daily indiscretions - are forgiven. Your sins are covered. God will not IMPUTE or place upon you judgment for your sin, for Jesus Christ was judged in your place on that Cross of Calvary!

2. Christ Our Cornerstone Joins The Believer With The Kingdom Of God

FOCAL Psalms 118:22-25 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. {23} This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. {24} This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. {25} Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.

This past week we all experienced the joy of another election in America. For about a year (maybe longer) prior to election Tuesday the two main candidates slung mud at one another. Each candidate told us that that he would be America's savior, and warned that if the other candidate was elected it would be disastrous. We were led to believe that the moon would crash into the earth, that every one would be forced to convert to a strange

religion, that the "mark of the beast" would be stamped on foreheads, and that - like in the movie *The Wizard of Oz* there would be evil flying monkeys everywhere.

I came home from Church on Sunday night and checked the election results on my computer (as I don't have a television). The popular vote was about even between the main candidates. I went to bed, and got up at 5:00 am the following morning to go to the hospital to be with some of our believing Church members. Though I still didn't know who had won the election I noticed something. The moon was still in the sky. Nobody was standing outside of my house with a branding iron, ready to try and give me the "mark of the beast". I didn't see not one flying monkey. And when I prayed before I got in the *blue bullet* (my car) to go to the hospital my Lord still whispered sweetly to my heart.

Dear believers, I say this with all due respect. No man, whether Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, or Socialist will *ever* bring the Kingdom of God to this earth. These candidates - and our incoming President - will do the best they know how over the next four years.

Every political candidate is, each and every one, fallible man and woman. The Cornerstone of the Christian is Jesus Christ. He alone is the One *through Whom* we as believers live our lives.

Political commentator **Cal Thomas** wrote in a recent column⁴:

⁴ November 6, 2008, article entitled *Religious Right, R.I.P.*

"Too many conservative Evangelicals have put too much faith in the power of government to transform culture. ... Does the secular left when it holds power, persuade conservatives to live by their standards? Of course they do not. Why then would conservative Evangelicals expect people who do not share their worldview and view of God to accept their beliefs when they {the Conservatives} control government?"

... If results are what conservative Evangelicals want, they already have a model. It is contained in the life and commands of Jesus of Nazareth. Suppose millions of conservative Evangelicals engaged in an old and proven type of radical behavior. Suppose they followed the admonition of Jesus to 'love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit those in prison and care for widows and orphans', not as {an} ends ... but as a means of demonstrating God's love for the whole person in order that people might seek Him?"

This early Church was located in the middle of two societies that hated them. The Jews (the builders of Israel) despised the Church because the Pharisees wanted to keep their self righteous influence over the people. The Romans (the builders of the Gentiles) killed Christians because they worshiped Jesus Christ and not the pagan gods and goddesses.

What did the Christians in the early Church do when confronted by two warring sets of "Builders"? They

focused on Jesus Christ their Cornerstone!

The early believers took Jesus at His Word. He told them:

Matthew 6:33-34 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. {34} Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Focus on God's Kingdom. You are born again of God's Spirit. You are **Kings and Priests unto God (Revelation 1:6)** because Jesus made you so. Live your lives for Him and He will **take care of tomorrow**. Don't worry about the Pharisees and the Scribes. **The tax collectors and the prostitutes who believe in Jesus go into the Kingdom of God before these self righteous ones (Matthew 21:31).**

Dear believer, your happiness does not depend on a political candidate. It doesn't depend on the economy. It doesn't depend on anything that the world has to offer. Your happiness is based on *whether or not Christ is the Cornerstone of your life*. The Apostle Peter, quoting from our focal text, tells every believer that:

1 Peter 2:5-10 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. {6} Wherefore also it is contained in the

scripture, **Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. {7} Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, {8} And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. {9} But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: {10} Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.**

You who believe are recipients of great and glorious promises.

- First, **you are the people of God.** This world is your temporary abode until the day that you go to be with Jesus.
- Second, **you have a job to do.** People should see light in you, they should see Jesus in the way that you live your lives.
- Third, **you are God's holy nation** regardless as to what happens in America. Work with other citizens of God's Kingdom to establish His Kingdom on earth, with Christ as the Chief Cornerstone.
- Fourth, remember that **whosoever believeth on Jesus shall not be confounded.** You who believe belong to God. Live your lives *through* Him.

In the next four years we who are believers shall have a wonderful opportunity in our country to live our lives as unto the Lord. When the Pharisees asked Jesus when the Kingdom of God was going to come, our Lord replied:

Luke 17:20-21 ... The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: {21} Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

The Kingdom of God is within the hearts of His people. **The Kingdom of God is within you.** Let that which is in you be seen outwardly. Light hidden is of no use - let your lights shine for Jesus!

Let that which is in you be seen outwardly. Live with Christ as your Chief Cornerstone, tell others of what He did for all on Calvary, and love one another fervently - and God will use you to change the world! **Pastor Peter Marshal** said:

"Christianity, the power of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit of God, is the only force that can change people for good. It is the only Power in the world that can change the gears in a man's life from self-will to God's will. It is the only Power that can give a man the right motives to do what God wants him to do. Nothing else can bring him to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and to want most of all to be a part of the answer to the world's ills, and not part of the problem. ⁵"

Because Christ was King David's Cornerstone he was able to rightly say:

CONTEXT Psalms 118:5-8 **I called upon the LORD in distress: the LORD answered me, and set me in a large place. {6} The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? {7} The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me. {8} It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.**

He was not dismayed by any man, but David put his trust in the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ!

3. If You Reject Christ As Your Cornerstone Then You Have Rejected Your Only Hope

FOCAL Psalms 118:22 ... **The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.**

Perhaps there are some of you who are thinking "maybe there's another way to God outside of Christ. Or maybe I can wait until after death and God will give me a *second chance at salvation at that time*. What does the Scripture say? **Christ is THE Chief Corner Stone.**

There are so many people in Biblical history who - being exposed to Jesus - rejected Him in favor of their own way. Consider the **Pharisees** who followed the Law of Moses but rejected Christ as Savior. Jesus told them:

Matthew 21:42-44 ... Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? {43} Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. {44} And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

The Pharisees were so close to Heaven, but ended up in hell. The **Cornerstone fell on them and ground them to powder because they rejected Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**

The Builders - those so close to Heaven - lost Heaven because Jesus ...

John 1:11 ... came unto his own, and his own received him not.

And what of **Judas Iscariot**? He walked and talked with Jesus for some three years. He sat at the feet of Christ as He preached the Gospel of the Kingdom. Judas was on the hillside when Jesus took a few fish and a few loaves of bread and fed a multitude. What of Judas? The Apostle Peter, preaching from the text of **Psalm 41:9** and **Psalm 69:25** said of Judas:

Acts 1:17, 20 ... For {Judas} was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry. Let his

habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishopric let another take.

He was numbered with the Apostles, but he turned away from Jesus for **thirty pieces of silver**. **He gained, he thought, the whole world, but lost his own soul (Matthew 16:26)**. So close, and yet so far. We also think of the **thief who hung to the left of Jesus at Calvary**. The thief on the right took the time to ask Jesus "**Lord, remember me**" (Luke 23:42), while his partner in crime rejected the Door of Heaven that was right before him. "**If Thou be Christ get me out of this predicament!**" (Luke 23:39). That thief died inches from Heaven and burns today in hellfire. We also think of **King Agrippa** who, hearing the Apostle Paul preach the Gospel, said:

Acts 26:28 ... Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Almost ... almost. When I was a child we used to say "**Almost only counts with horse shoes and hand grenades**". Dear friends, almost does not count with Heaven.

You can be almost saved by being in proximity to Christ as Judas Iscariot and the dying thief were, or you can almost be saved by hearing what I have said today and refuse to do anything about it. The Bible tells us plainly that

Hebrews 9:27-28 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: {28} So

Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

How can you stand before God clean? Is it by keeping of the Law? No, it is by surrendering your life to Jesus Christ. By recognizing that you need the Savior, and then by rejecting every means of salvation but His. Israel rejected Christ and *did not receive* the righteousness of God. The Bible says:

Romans 9:31-33 ... Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. {32} Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; {33} As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumblingstone and rock of offense: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

God has made one means of salvation. If you reject that means - surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ - then you will never be saved. But if you come today and *call upon the name of the Lord Jesus* you shall be saved - you and your whole house.

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

FOCAL Read Responsively Psalms 118:21-23 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. {22} **The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.** {23} **This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**^{KJV}

Acts 4:10-12; 1 Peter 2:6-7; Titus 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 6:20

**1. Christ Our Cornerstone Joins
The Believer With God**

Psalms 32:1; Job 34:10, 12; Isaiah 13:11; **Psalms 118:1-4** ; **Psalms 118:29** ; 1 John 3:5; John 18:38; Isaiah 65:5; Hebrews 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:3; Romans 4:5-8

**2. Christ Our Cornerstone Joins The
Believer With The Kingdom Of God**

Psalms 118:22-25 ; Matthew 6:33-34; Revelation 1:6;

KJV All texts are King James Version (1769) unless otherwise noted. Other versions only used when needed for clarity.

Matthew 21:31; 1 Peter 2:5-10; ; Luke 17:20-21

Peter Marshall: "**Christianity, the power of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit of God, is the only force that can change people for good. It is the only Power in the world that can change the gears in a man's life from self-will to God's will. It is the only Power that can give a man the right motives to do what God wants him to do. Nothing else can bring him to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and to want most of all *to be a part of the answer to the world's ills, and not part of the problem.***"⁶"

**3. If You Reject Christ As Your Cornerstone
Then You Have Rejected Your Only Hope**

Psalms 118:22 ; Matthew 21:42-44; John 1:11; Psalm 41:9; Psalm 69:25; Acts 1:17, 20; Matthew 16:26; Luke 23:42; Luke 23:39; Acts 26:28; Hebrews 9:27-28; Romans 9:31-33; Acts 2:21

Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

