

## **SERMON: JESUS CHRIST–THE CHIEF CORNER STONE**

**Ephesians 2:19-22**

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:6**

**Ephesians 2:19-22**

**(19) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of faith. (20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone. (21) In whom all the building fitly framed together growth unto an holy temple in the Lord: (22) In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:6**

**Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a Chief Corner Stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.**

### **Introduction**

There are many stones that are used in the construction of a great building. There is the cap stone which is the last stone to be inserted; it is usually very elegant. There is the chief corner stone which is the first stone to be laid. Today we will preach about the chief corner stone. I will say in passing that Jesus is both the chief corner stone and the cap stone because He is the first and the last. He is alpha and omega. I say again, He is the first and the last.

As we celebrate this congregation's one hundred fifty-third anniversary, let us reiterate the fact that the church belongs to Christ; He purchased it with His own blood.

There are many metaphors to describe the relationship between Christ and His church. Each one highlights particular aspects of the relationship. Let's examine why Paul, Peter, and Jesus, Himself, used this metaphor, the chief corner stone, to describe certain aspects of our Lord's relationship with His church.

### **Exposition**

#### **1. The First Component Of Construction.**

(I Have Already Said This, But I Will Say It Again.)

(The Foundation Of The Foundation.)

## **2. Strategically Located On North-Eastern Corner of the Building.**

(Light From Sunrise Would Illuminate It First.)

(Workers Could Commence Work First At This Location.)

(There Was No Morning Shadow.)

## **3. Provided Stability To Entire Building.**

(More Of Its Mass Is Subsurface Than Above Ground.)

(Very Deep-More Than 12 Feet Underground.)

(Stable-Would Not Shift.)

(If Not Level-Would Re-Install.)

(Allowed to Settle Before Construction Continued.)

## **4. The Official Point Of Reference.**

(All Measurements Were Taken From Chief Cornerstone.)

(Including The Secondary Corner Stones.)

## **5. The Building Received Its Identification From Chief Cornerstone.**

(Engraved With Pertinent Information.)

(Name Of Architect.)

(Name Of The Builder.)

(Date Of Construction.)

(King Who Authorized The Construction.)

(“If Anybody Asks You Who I Am, Tell Them I’m A Child Of God.”)

(For Me To Live Is Christ.)

## **Closing Thoughts**

The church is built on a solid foundation. Jesus is both the chief corner stone and the cap stone. The works of the evil one cannot hinder it. Jesus promised that His church will prevail despite the resistance and plots of satan. This is why Antioch-Lithonia has been around for one hundred fifty-three years. I believe Antioch-Lithonia will be in existence when Jesus “raptures up” and “raises up” all of the saints of all the ages. What if it were to happen on a Sunday morning when we are worshipping in our sanctuary? Thank God for one hundred fifty-three years! Let the church say, “Amen!” Give God Glory! Give God All the Glory

## **Related Scriptures.**

**Job 38:4-6**

**Psalms 118:22-23**

**Isaiah 28:16**

**Matthew 21: 42**

**Mark 12:10-11**

**Luke 20:17**

**Acts 4:11**

**Romans 9:33**

### **End Notes**

1. Sometimes in the New Testament era and in Paul's letters in particular, the word prophet is a blanket term to refer to all preachers: pastors, evangelists, forth-tellers, foretellers. We have a similar use today, in which "man" or "men" can refer to the totality of humankind. This is the case in Ephesians 2:20. Paul does, however, distinguish the apostles because they were the eye witnesses to the resurrection.

The original apostles verbally disseminated the gospel message with authority. Remember, the gospels were written after the epistles. There was a delay in writing the gospels because they thought Jesus was coming "right back" and there was no need to document His earthly works. Paul makes it clear that preachers are the secondary corner stones. This is a challenge for us to do our best to "rightly divide the Word of truth." Context is very important; Paul does "not" use prophet as a blanket term in Ephesians 4:11.

2. There are many allusions in the Scriptures listed above to a story about the building of the temple. It was so well known at the time that there was no need to restate it. Here is the story. At the beginning of the project all of the stones were cut to size before construction began. This was customary at this time. It was especially important during construction on sacred sites. Please read 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 6:7. There was a big "funny looking" stone on the site that a worker discarded and put in the rubble pile. The master mason saw it and decided it would be ideal for use as the chief corner stone. The rejected stone became the chief corner stone. That sounds like Jesus to me. It can also mean that when people reject you, God sees and knows your true worth and will place you in the right position.

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