**1 Peter: Christ—A Precious Stone and**

**a Crushing Rock**

*1 Peter 2:6-8*

**Context**

**1 Peter 2:6-8***—For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”* ***7****This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone,”* ***8****and, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.*

**What do we do with Christ?**

1. **To the believer, He is precious**

**1 Peter 2:6**—*For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”*

1. God’s Word prophesied this truth

**Isaiah 28:16**—*Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.*

* 1. Validating Isaiah as part of scripture and from God
	2. The passage is prophetic related to the coming Messiah

**Romans 9:32b-33**—*They stumbled over the stumbling stone,* ***33****just as it is written, “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”*

* 1. The Messiah would be the cornerstone of God’s spiritual house
1. “Behold” indicates they are “to view” or “see”
2. The stone that the Father Himself laid in Zion (specifically, the mountain in Jerusalem)

**2 Samuel 5:7***—Nevertheless, David captured the stronghold of Zion, that is the city of David.*

**1 Kings 8:1***—Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers’ households of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the city of David, which is Zion.*

**Psalm 48:2***—Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, Is Mount Zion in the far north, The city of the great King.*

1. Jesus was sent by the Father as the cornerstone, but He was rejected

**John 1:11**—*He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.*

**Matthew 23:27-28**—*“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.****38****Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!*

1. Figuratively, Zion refers to the New Covenant (and blessing) as Sinai does to the Old Covenant (and judgement)

**Galatians 4:24-25***—This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar.****25****Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.*

Cf. **Hebrews 12:18-23***—For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind,****19****and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.****20****For they could not bear the command, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned.”****21****And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, “I am full of fear and trembling.”****22****But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,****23****to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect*

1. Christ alone is uniquely qualified to be the Chosen One: living, choice, and precious
	1. Choice
		1. The temple stones were choice

**1 Kings 6:7**—*The house, while it was being built, was built of stone prepared at the quarry, and there was neither hammer nor axe nor any iron tool heard in the house while it was being built.*

* + 1. Christ being choice

**Hebrews 3:6**—…*but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.*

* 1. *Precious*—held in honor, prized, noble, dear to one, uniquely qualified, costly, irreplaceable
		1. As the cornerstone, He sets the trajectory of the building
		2. He is flawless

**Matthew 21:42***—**Jesus \*said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures, ‘The stone which the builders rejected,
This became the chief corner stone;
This came about from the Lord,
And it is marvelous in our eyes’?*

**Philippians 2:9***—For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name*

1. For believers, we will not be disappointed
	1. We have not displaced our hope
	2. We are not been deceived
	3. We have not misplacing our confidence
	4. We will never be disappointed in Him

**Romans 10:11-13**—*For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed.”****12****For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;****13****for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

* 1. We are forever secure in Him

**John 10:3-4***—To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.****4****When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

**Romans 8:16-17***—The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,****17****and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.*

**Romans 8:37-39***—But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.****38****For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,****39****nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Ephesians 1:13-14***—In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,****14****who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.*

**James 1:12***—Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

1. *This precious value, then, is for you who believe, v***2:7a**
	1. We have joy because of God’s love toward us

**1 John 4:16-19**—*We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.****17****By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.****18****There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.****19****We love, because He first loved us.*

* 1. In response, we are filled with the joy of loving Him

**John 8:42**—Jesus said to them, “If God were your *Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.*

**John 14:21***—He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”*

**John 16:27***—for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.*

**1 Corinthians 8:3***—but if anyone loves God, he is known by Him.*

**1 Peter 1:8***—and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory*

* 1. This love controls us

**2 Corinthians 5:14**—*For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died*

* 1. Believing and loving are inseparable

**1 John 5:1***—Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

1. **To the unbeliever, He is a stumbling block and an offensive rock**

**1 Peter 2:7b-8**—*…but for those who disbelieve, “The stone which the builders rejected, This became the very corner stone,”* ***8****and, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.*

1. *To those who disbelieve*
	1. Jewish leaders

**Psalm 118:22**—*The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief corner stone.*

* 1. Jewish people
	2. Christ was of no value to them and in their mind, did not meet the Messianic qualifications
	3. But to God, He was *the very corner stone*
1. Stone of stumbling
	1. Stone(s) in the road that people would trip and fall over
	2. *Stumbling* is in reference to diving judgment

**Luke 20:17-18***—But Jesus looked at them and said, “What then is this that is written: ‘The stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief corner stone’?* ***18****Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”*

1. *Rock of offense*
	1. The Rock bed that they would fall against and be crushed after the fall
	2. The unbeliever does not obey the word

v**8b**—*…for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.*

* 1. They do not obey the gospel because of their unbelief
	2. God does not actively destine people to unbelief; but He does appoint judgment (doom) on every unbeliever[[1]](#footnote-2)

**John 3:18, 36**—*He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. …****36****He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*

**2 Thessalonians 1:6-9**—*For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,****7****and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,****8****dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.****9****These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power*

**1 Corinthians 16:22**—*If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha.*

**Conclusion**

We ought to have unbridled praise that continually comes from our joyful hearts. A doxology of praise should ever be on our lips as we think of the glorious reality of what Christ has done to make us His own and the inheritance that is ours. Anything less only diminishes that reality.

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter

R.C.H. Lenski, The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude

John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter

John MacArthur, The Believer’s Privileges, Part 4: Union, Feb 5, 1989, [www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org)Jerome H Smith, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. MacArthur Commentary, 123. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)