

Jesus in Jerusalem

Matthew 21: 42.

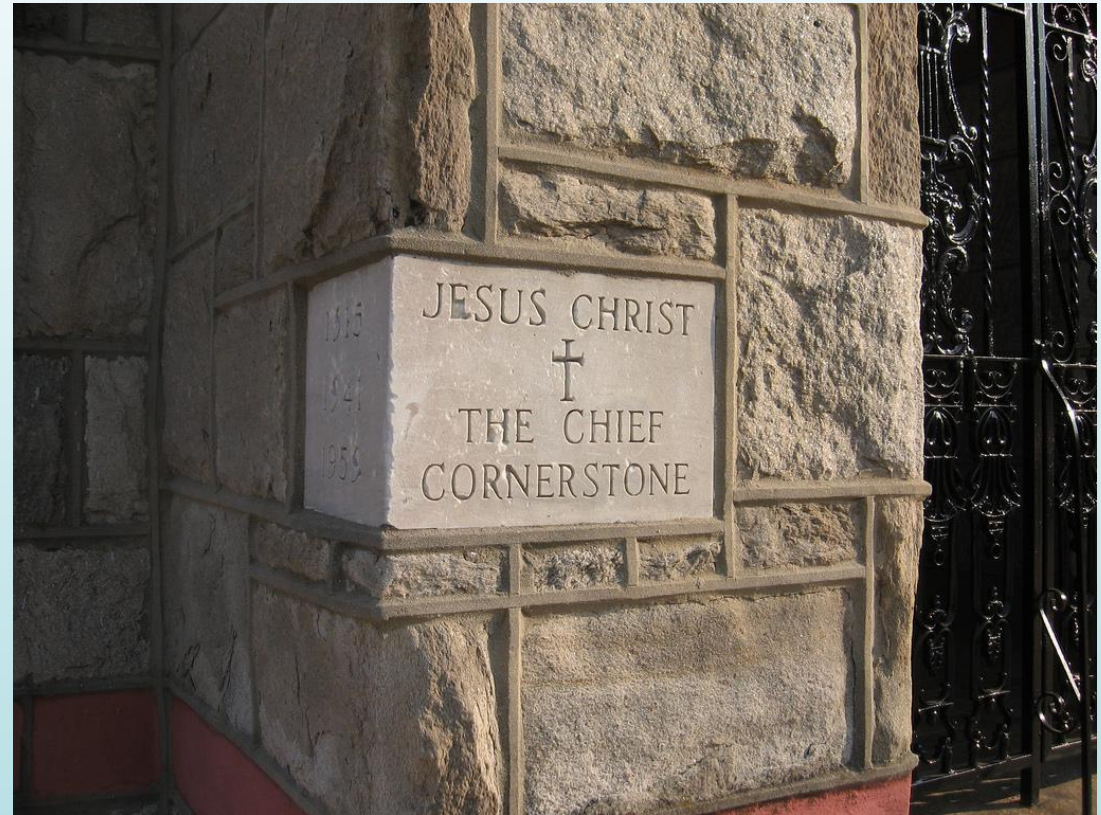


“Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:
‘The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.
This was the Lord’s doing,
And it is marvelous in our eyes’?”
Matthew 21: 42.



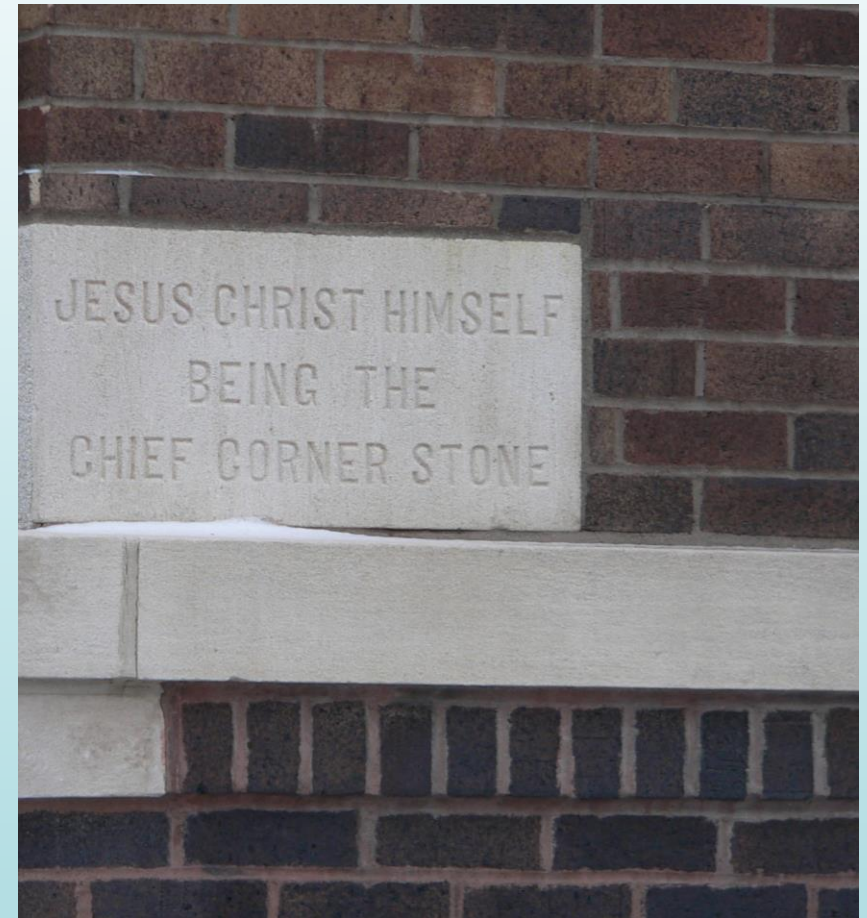
I. Introduction: The Importance of the Cornerstone

A cornerstone is essential for the construction of a building. In parallel, the crucial element for building the Church is Jesus Christ. There is no church without Him.



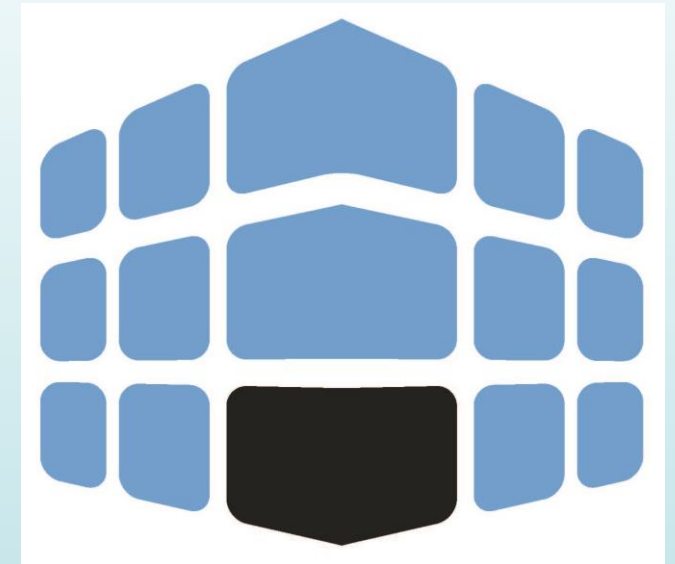
“The cornerstone is the most important stone, because it sets the course for all the rest of the stones and for the whole building. That cornerstone is basic, essential, foundational, and it supports the weight of the entire building.”

Nancy Leigh DeMoss



“When writing his epistle to the Ephesians, Paul explained that his readers were part of God’s household, “having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:19–20). That passage equates the apostles with the church’s foundation. It means nothing if it doesn’t decisively limit apostleship to the earliest stages of church history. After all, a foundation is not something that can be rebuilt during every phase of construction. The foundation is unique, and it is always laid first, with the rest of the structure resting firmly above it.”

John MacArthur



“Paul testifies that the Church is “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,” (Eph. 2: 20.) If the doctrine of the apostles and prophets is the foundation of the Church, the former must have had its certainty before the latter began to exist.”
John Calvin



God's great purposes for the building of his church often come through seasons of rejection, but in the end He remains triumphant and none of us can bring his purpose to ruin. If we reject his way, we cannot destroy his plan. C.S. Lewis said once: "We all serve God inevitably, but it makes a great difference whether you serve like Judas or serve like John." In the end God is triumphant in our belief and our unbelief. He is triumphant in our obedience and our disobedience. Human beings, whether good or evil, rejecting or accepting, believing or unbelieving, cannot thwart the ultimate purposes of God. "The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner."

John Piper

“The proper angle and placement of every stone depend on the cornerstone. This foundation stone is the most important in the whole building. Similarly, Christ is the foundation of the Church. He is the cornerstone of the building of believers. Without Christ the whole structure would collapse. Christ forms the firm foundation of our faith and without him our spiritual building would also collapse.”

Kurt Uhlenbrauck



“God pledges to lay a foundation in Zion and that only those who trust Him alone will never be put to shame. This promise finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus who, because He is the rock of our salvation, can alone guarantee our eternal security. He is not only the cornerstone but is in fact the true living Temple who sets aside any need for the old one (John 2:19–22). We become living stones in this Temple only as we trust in Him.”
R. C. Sproul



“When the New Testament depicts the church as the “household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord” (Eph. 2:19-21, R.S.V.), there is little doubt about the intended meaning of the metaphor. The church must be, uniquely, the sign of God's presence in history. Ever being built for it is never complete on earth until God's final purpose is consummated Christ holds it together and shapes it.”

Raoul Dederen



II. Context



The center of the chapter 21 in the Gospel of Matthew is about the questioning of Jesus' authority by the religious leaders. Instead of trying to understand His ministry, they wanted to impose to Him their own vision of leadership: having everything under control. Jesus refused to comply and very soon the religious leaders were trying to eliminate Jesus. Immanuel, God with us, was not well received among His own.



Jesus Christ and Religious Leaders

Matthew 21: 1 – 46. Structure

A	1 - 11	Jesus' Entry to Jerusalem. The Multitude Cries Out Hosanna to the Son of David
B	12 - 17	Jesus' Entry into the Temple. Cleansing
C	18 - 22	Jesus to the Disciples: Believe
D	23 - 27	Jesus' Authority Questioned
C'	28 - 32	Refusal of Leaders to Believe in Jesus
B'	33 - 44	Desire of Leaders to kill Jesus
A'	45 -46	Fear of Leaders to lay hands on Jesus

III. Through Jesus Christ God was able to show His everlasting love and to build His community of believers, as a sign to the entire universe of His wisdom and glory.

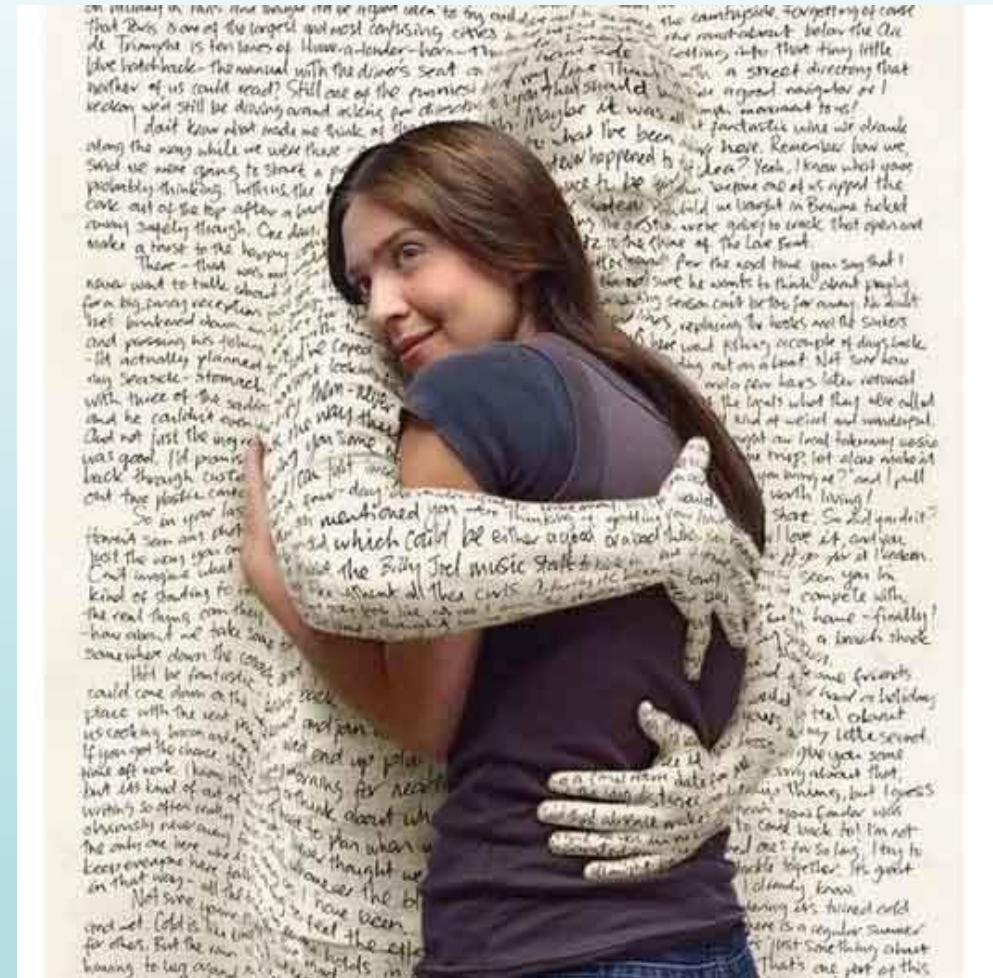


1. All Scriptures are pointing us to Jesus

“Have you never read in the Scriptures”



“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” Jerome



"You've never met Him in person, and you don't know anyone who has. But there is a way to know who He is. How? Jesus Christ, the divine Person revealed in the Bible, has a unique excellence and a spiritual beauty that speaks directly to our souls and says, "Yes, this is truth." It's like seeing the sun and knowing that it is light, or tasting honey and knowing that it is sweet... Look at the Jesus of the Bible. Keep your eyes open, and fill them with the portrait of Jesus in God's Word. Jesus said, "If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority." Ask God for the grace to do his will, and you will see the truth of his Son."

John Piper

"Jesus, open the eyes of my heart,
that I may hear your word and
understand and do your will. Open
the eyes of my mind to the
understanding of your Gospel
teachings. Speak to me the hidden
and secret things of your
wisdom. Enlighten my mind and
understanding with the light of
your knowledge, not only to
cherish those things that are
written, but to do them. Amen."
John Chrysostom's Prayer before
Reading Scripture



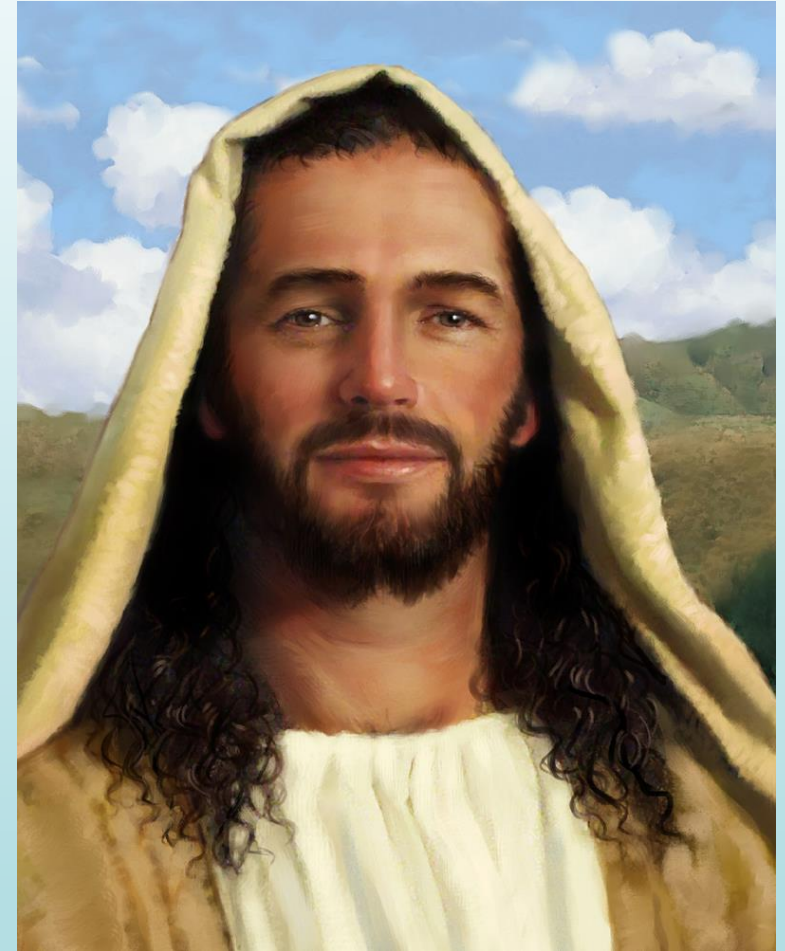
2. Everybody has to
make his own
choice about Jesus:
to accept Him or to
reject Him

“The stone which the
builders rejected”



“Jesus Christ is to me the outstanding personality of all time, all history, both as Son of God and as Son of Man. Everything he ever said or did has value for us today and that is something you can say of no other man, dead or alive. There is no easy middle ground to stroll upon. You either accept Jesus or reject him.”

Sholem Asch



"A man rejects God neither because of intellectual demands nor because of the scarcity of evidence. A man rejects God because of a moral resistance that refuses to admit his need for God."

Ravi Zacharias

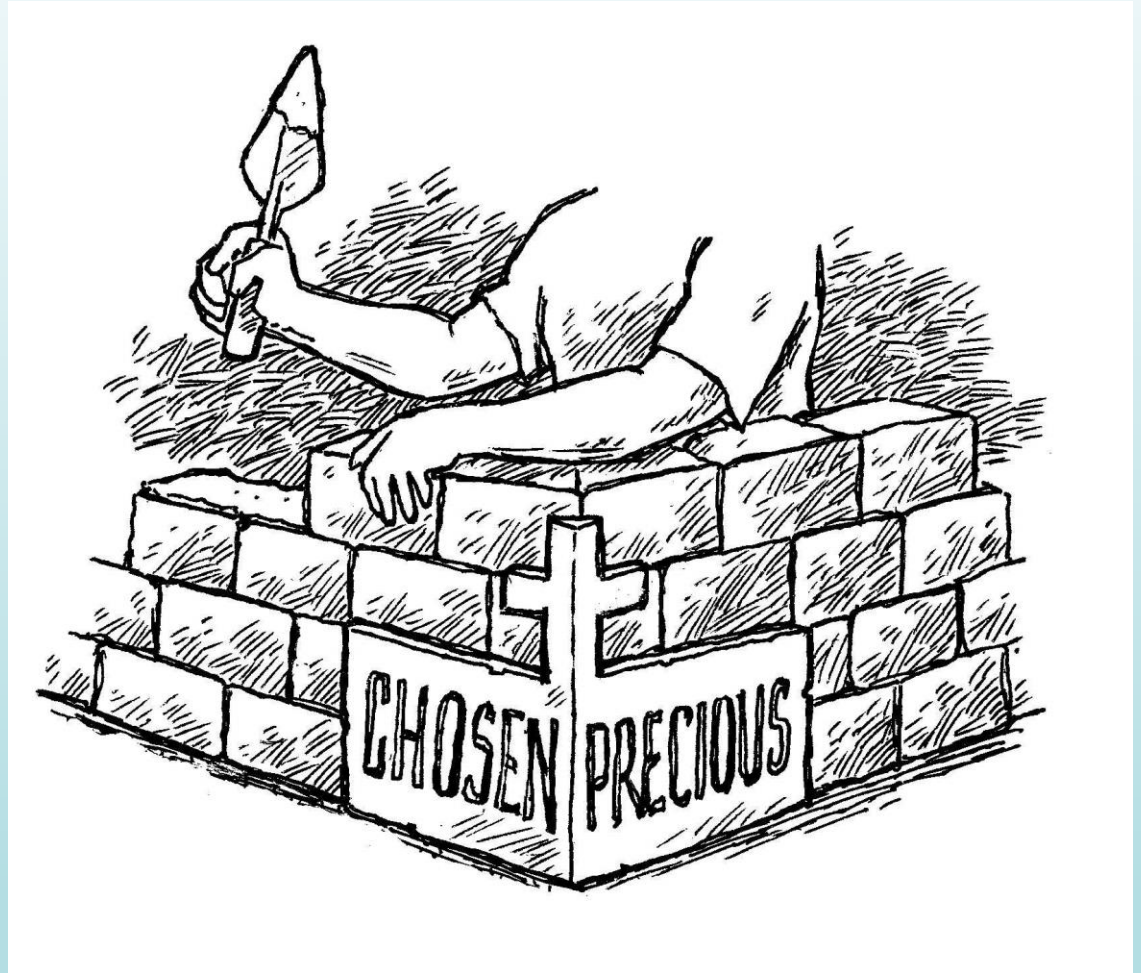


“Rejecting Jesus Christ is like a fugitive who spends all day running but has nowhere to hide; you will face Him after death. He is the only judge and jury.”
Felix Wantang

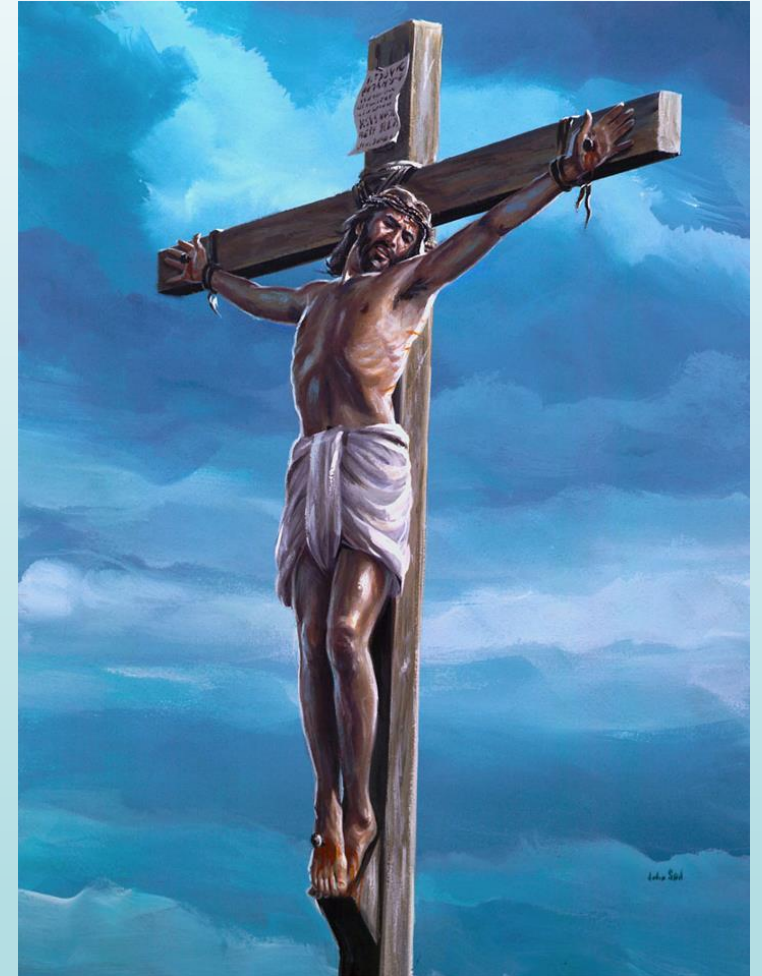


3. Jesus is the chief cornerstone for the construction of the church

"[The stone] has become the
chief cornerstone."



“The cornerstone in the Bible is Jesus Christ, the Son of Man and the Son of God. He was rejected by His generation because He didn’t correspond to what they expected of Him. But the effectiveness of His ministry doesn’t depend on our approval. He is the chief cornerstone because of God and not because of us.”
(DS)



“The cornerstone is either a source of blessing or judgment, depending on a person's attitude toward it. The very foundation of the church is Jesus Christ. This was prophesied by the prophets of old and fulfilled through the incarnation. Those who believe are blessed and those who stumble over that rock chosen by God are condemned.

Walter A. Elwell

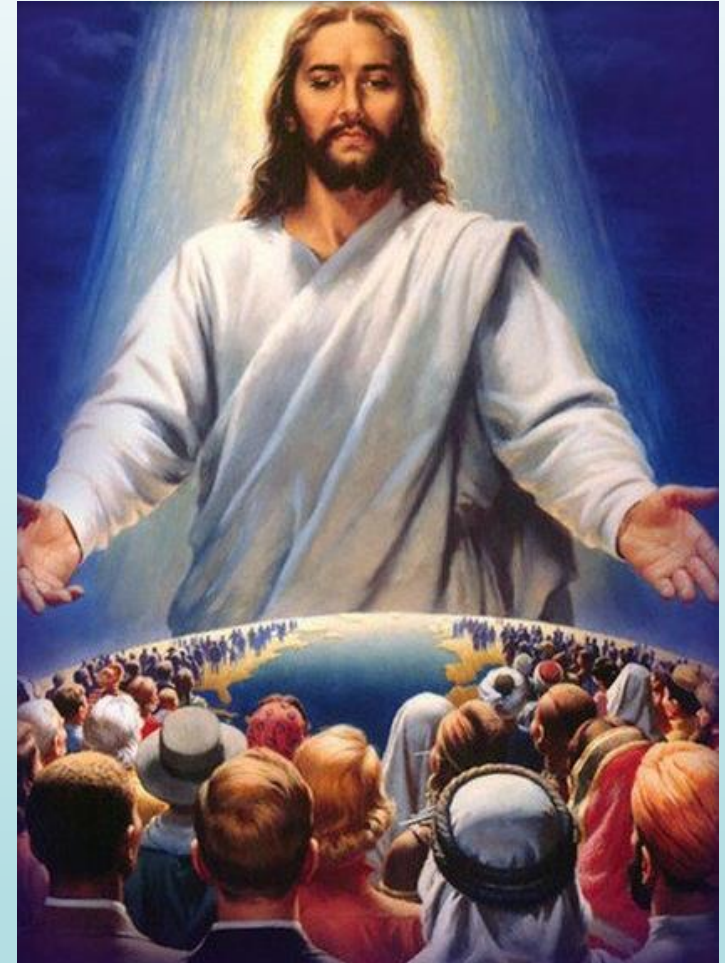


“The one that you reject will come back to be the cornerstone of the Kingdom. Inherent in that is His resurrection, right? You’re not finished with Him. He’ll come back and He will be the cornerstone from which all the lines whether they are horizontal lines or vertical lines move, He is the cornerstone.”

John MacArthur



4. Only God can build the church. Human power is insufficient for such a project
“This was the Lord’s doing”



“The appointment of Jesus of Nazareth to be the foundation of the church is proved by miracle and prophecy to be the work of God.”
Albert Barnes

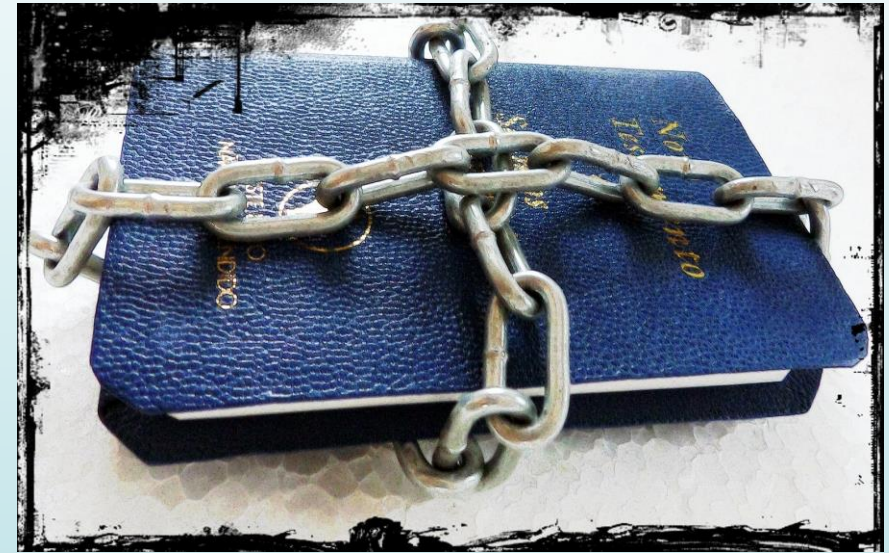


“Only God can build
the church, only God
can make a group of
sinful, rebellious,
broken people into a
community
characterised by
faith, love and hope
that displays his
glory to the world.”
Dan Steel



“We are to praise God because He relieves those who have chosen to let Him be their defence. And that is very important when it comes to the building of the church. Only God can build the church and He does so in the face of opposition. In fact, He does so through opposition (see 1 Peter 2:21-25). When the church is at her weakest, she is at her strongest (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). When she is beaten and downtrodden then she is in a wonderful position to grow.”

Doug Van Meter



5. The building of
the Church is a
continuous miracle
“And it is marvelous in our
eyes”

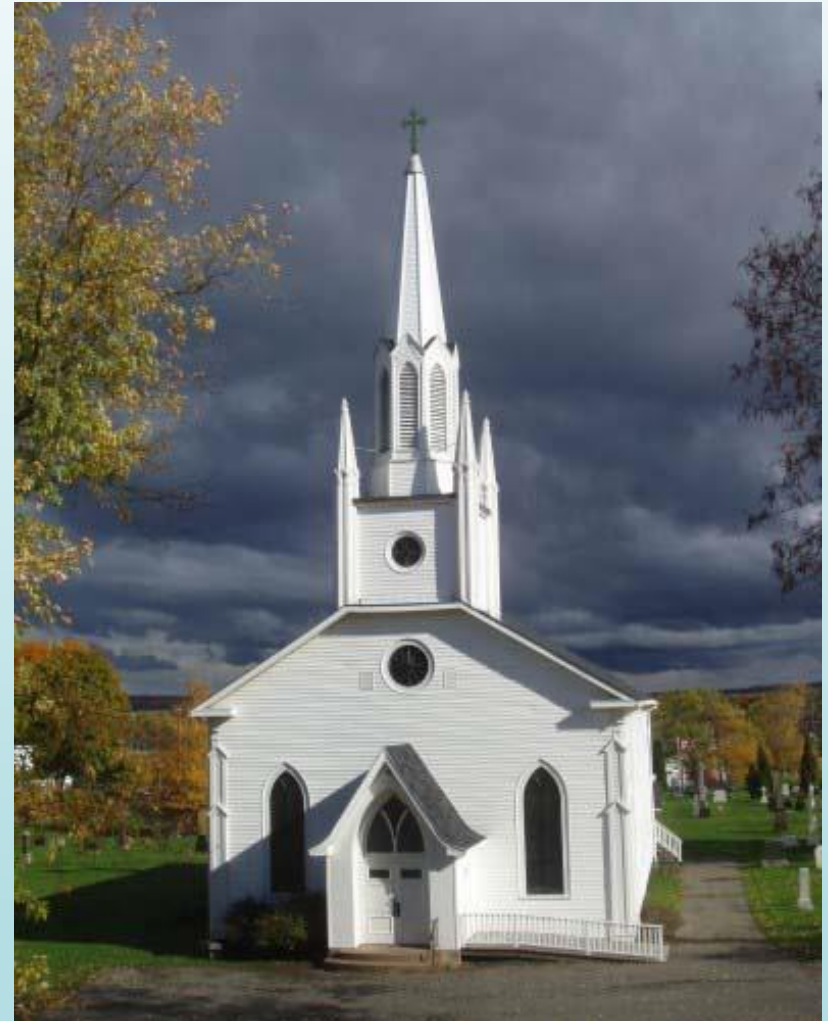


“The works of the Spirit of God are the true evidences of Christianity. They say miracles are withdrawn, but the Holy Spirit is the standing miracle of the church of God today.”
Charles Spurgeon



“The history of Christianity is frequently sordid and depressing, and very frequently, apparently sacred events turn out to have very secular causes. Christians will remain beginners in their faith if they do not face up to this. The miracle of the church's story is that after all its mistakes, bewildering transformations and entanglements in human bitterness, it is still there.”

Diarmaid MacCulloch



“If church members will put away all self worship, and will receive in their hearts the love for God and for one another that filled Christ’s heart, our heavenly Father will constantly manifest His power through them. Let His people be drawn together with the cords of divine love. Then the world will recognize the miracle working power of God, and will acknowledge that He is the Strength and the Helper of His commandment-keeping people.”
Ellen G. White, MS-61, June 3, 1906



V. Conclusion



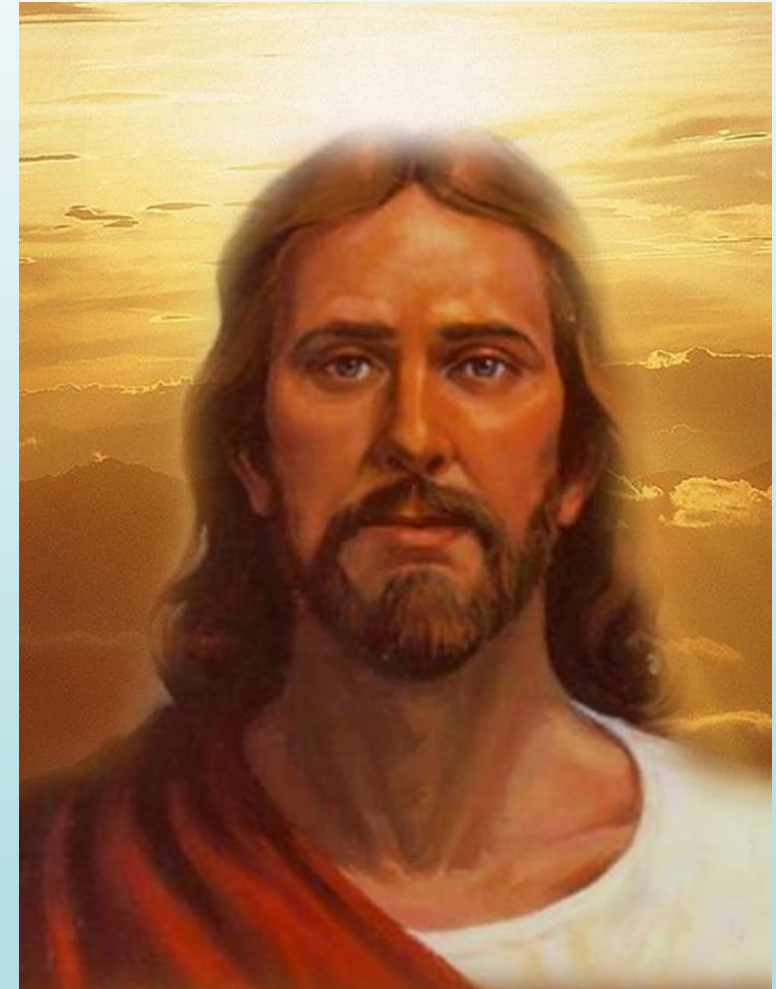
“The foundation of the plan of salvation was laid in sacrifice. Jesus left the royal courts and became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. All who share this salvation, purchased for them at such an infinite sacrifice by the Son of God, will follow the example of the true Pattern. Christ was the chief Cornerstone, and we must build upon this Foundation. Each must have a spirit of self-denial and self-sacrifice. The life of Christ upon earth was unselfish; it was marked with humiliation and sacrifice. And shall men, partakers of the great salvation which Jesus came from heaven to bring them, refuse to follow their Lord and to share in His self-denial and sacrifice?... Is the servant greater than his Lord? Shall the world’s Redeemer practice self-denial and sacrifice on our account, and the members of Christ’s body practice self-indulgence? Self-denial is an essential condition of discipleship.”

Ellen G. White, 3T p. 387.

“Upon this living stone, Jews and Gentiles alike may build. This is the only foundation upon which we may securely build. It is broad enough for all, and strong enough to sustain the weight and burden of the whole world. And by connection with Christ, the living stone, all who build upon this foundation become living stones. Many persons are by their own endeavors hewn, polished, and beautified; but they cannot become “living stones,” because they are not connected with Christ. Without this connection, no man can be saved. Without the life of Christ in us, we cannot withstand the storms of temptation. Our eternal safety depends upon our building upon the sure foundation. Multitudes are today building upon foundations that have not been tested. When the rain falls, and the tempest rages, and the floods come, their house will fall, because it is not founded upon the eternal Rock, the chief cornerstone Christ Jesus.”
Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 599.

“May Christ become more and more precious to our souls, as the firm Foundation and Cornerstone of his church. May we be willing to follow him, though despised and hated for his sake.”

Matthew Henry



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