STUDIES



CORNERSTONE

"CHRIST ALONE, CORNERSTONE"

JESUS - THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR LIFE

PSALM 118, ISAIAH 28

Since ancient times, a cornerstone has been vitally important in the construction of a building. This stone is laid first and it determines the positioning and layout of the rest of the structure. Keystones on the other hand are near the top and hold the other pieces in place. In either case they are an important piece in the overall integrity and foundation of the building.

Talking about Jesus, Psalm 118:22 tells us that the stone that was rejected has become the cornerstone. In Isaiah 28:16 it tells us that this precious cornerstone, again talking about Jesus, is a sure foundation and there is no need to panic for those who rely on it.

Imagine living in a tall building. If the cornerstone was made of a material that was weaker than the rest of the structure or not placed correctly, the whole building would be compromised! How comfortable would you be to set up your life inside that building and trust your life to be safe when something places pressure on that foundation?

We can sometimes find ourselves leaning on different foundations at different points in our life. Some "cornerstones" look very attractive and stable and without even realising it, we have moved into a new building with a different cornerstone. Ultimately, these foundations will lead to disappointment and disillusionment.

Jesus is the only way to salvation and fellowship with God. We were totally unable to save ourselves; our sin separating us from God. Through His work on the cross, Jesus used Himself as the cornerstone, the sure foundation upon which our relationship and connection back to our Creator could be made. Only Jesus, being the Son of God, had the power to do this for us.

He is the foundation upon which we can build a life with a solid assurance and a confidence for the future. We can live a life free of fear and worry and with a comfort that comes from the unsurpassed love of God. Christ alone is the cornerstone for every part of our life.

CONNECTION AND ACTION

Q: We've all seen buildings being built. What lessons about foundations for life can we learn from buildings?

Q: "My hope is built on nothing less" - Discuss some of the cornerstones that people rely on other than Jesus. What is the danger of these foundations?

Q: What are some of the cornerstones you've built your life on in the past?

Q: What benefits have you experienced from having Christ as your cornerstone?

Q: How would you explain to someone who wasn't a follower of Jesus why they needed to make Him their cornerstone?

Q: Share a time when you moved your reliance from some false cornerstones to Jesus. How did that happen? What result did it have in your life?

NOTES

BIBLE AND BELIEF

Read Matthew 7:24-28

In this passage, Jesus describes people who build their lives on his teachings as wise.

Q: What things does Jesus say we need to do to be able to build on this foundation?

Q: Why are “hearing” and “applying” important and inseparable when founding our lives on Jesus’ teaching?

Q: What is it about Jesus’ teaching that makes it a sure foundation for our lives? Why does it protect from the storms of life?

Q: Illustrate this with an example of how one of Jesus’ teachings from the Sermon on the Mount has shaped the foundations of your life.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-8, 3:9-15

In this passage, Paul talks about building the kingdom upon the foundation which is Jesus.

Q: In what ways is Jesus Himself the foundation for our lives? For the kingdom?

Q: What does it mean to build our lives on that foundation?

Q: What different ways are there to build our lives on this foundation that is Jesus? What about building the kingdom?

Q: Paul identified good and poor ways of building on that foundation. What are good ways? What are poor ways? Give examples.

NOTES

GROWING LEADERSHIP

Q: In your experience as a leader what things have you seen people build their lives on other than the foundation of Jesus? What were the results?

Q: How can we help others to build their lives on Jesus' foundation? (Leaders Tip: help them to cultivate their relationship with Jesus, help them identify parts of their life that are not founded on Jesus, or where they don't trust Him or relinquish control to Him).

Q: What does it mean for Jesus to be the foundation of our leadership? How can we promote that in our own leadership?

Q: How can we make Jesus the centre of our leadership in the workplace or some other non-church setting where we have influence?

NOTES

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU

OUR PRAYER IS THAT YOU WOULD DISCOVER THE AUTHOR OF LOVE... THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. HIS LIFE AND DEATH REPRESENT THE GREATEST GIFT OF LOVE THE WORLD WILL EVER SEE... "THIS IS REAL LOVE – NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON AS A SACRIFICE TO TAKE AWAY OUR SINS." 1 JOHN 4:10 (NLT)... GOD PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE SENDING HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST, WHO DIED ON THE CROSS IN OUR PLACE AND ROSE AGAIN TO PROVE HIS VICTORY, RESTORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND EMPOWER US FOR LIFE. IT IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST THAT WE CAN KNOW AND BE RECONCILED WITH GOD... ALL WE NEED TO DO IS BELIEVE IN HIM AND ACCEPT JESUS CHRIST AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR. IT IS AS SIMPLE AS PRAYING A PRAYER... ASKING JESUS TO MEET YOU RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE... IT IS A BRAND NEW START OF LIVING IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD... IF YOU ARE NOT SURE THAT YOU PERSONALLY KNOW THE LORD JESUS, WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE THIS YOUR PRAYER TODAY **// Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You for dying on the cross for me. Thank You for Your amazing love. I repent of my sins and thank You for Your forgiveness. Please come into my life and give me a fresh start. I believe in You and accept You as my Lord and Saviour. I am now a Christian – a follower of Jesus Christ and You now live in me. Help me to live my life for You from this day forward. Amen. //** IF YOU HAVE PRAYED THIS PRAYER TODAY, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! PLEASE WRITE TO US AT HILLSONG CHURCH, PO BOX 1195, CASTLE HILL, NSW 1765, AUSTRALIA OR EMAIL US AT

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