

“Cornerstone”

Scripture Reading: 1 PETER 2:4-8

-) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 9.** Today we’ll take a break from our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS because today is Resurrection Sunday (Easter Sunday) of 2021. Last year for Easter we were under quarantine due to the corona virus and churches, along with many other facilities, were closed. But this year we are here today at BGCC assembled as a body of believers on this Resurrection Sunday.
-) **SLIDE 10.** Today, for Resurrection Sunday, we are going to focus on the word “*cornerstone.*” What is a cornerstone? Webster. And today, from a Biblical standpoint, we will be looking at this cornerstone in two ways using definition #2.
-) If we think of a cornerstone as a foundation to something, we can apply that in many different ways. Just in life itself, the basic necessities are food, shelter, and clothing. They are our foundational needs. They are the cornerstones of our lives.
-) Before you start a business, you have to have a plan of where that business location will be, what services you will provide, who you are going to serve, how the finances will be taken care of, etc. Without these foundational issues resolved at the start, you will have a weak and ineffective business cornerstone.
-) Any good marriage has a cornerstone. “*I, ???, take you ??? to be my wedded wife (husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do us part.*” Those vows are the cornerstone of the love we pledge to our spouse on our wedding day.

-) In today's reading, the apostle Peter talks about a cornerstone. That cornerstone is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the foundation of salvation and the foundation of the church. And he refers to Jesus in both a positive and a negative light.
-) The question now becomes this: What will you do with the Jesus the Cornerstone? There are only two choices. And Peter quotes Scripture to further describe those two choices.
-) **SLIDE 11.** 1 PETER 2:6-7a. The first choice Peter gives us here is a positive choice. Believe in Him (Jesus) and you will not be disappointed.
-) **SLIDE 12.** Here Peter is quoting ISAIAH 28:16.
-) **SLIDE 13.** 1 PETER 2:7b-8. The second choice Peter gives us here is a negative choice. Or you can reject Jesus by being disobedient to His Word, and you will be doomed. Here Peter is quoting two OT passages.
-) **SLIDE 14.** The first is PSALM 118:22.
-) **SLIDE 15.** Other NT Scripture references.
-) **SLIDE 16.** Here Peter is quoting ISAIAH 8:14.
-) **SLIDE 17.** 1 PETER 2:6-8. So, I'll ask again. What have you done with the Jesus the Cornerstone? There are only two choices. The first choice is to believe in Him and never be disappointed. The second choice is to reject Him and be doomed.
-) We all understand Jesus as the Cornerstone. He is either believed or rejected. I want to take this idea of "*cornerstone*" to another level here this morning. And I'll do so by asking this question. If Jesus is the Cornerstone, what was the cornerstone event of earthly ministry?
-) Sure, every Christian knows and understands that Jesus is the Savior of the world and He grants repentance to all who call on His name.

-) But is there one event in His redemptive life that stands out above all His other works? Is there one event that could be called the cornerstone of His earthly ministry?
-) **SLIDE 18**. We know that Jesus performed miracles. He displayed His power over nature (calmed the seas); He displayed His power over demons (he cast them out); he displayed His power over death (He raised Lazarus); He displayed His power over disease (he healed the sick); and He displayed His power over sin (He forgave the paralytic).
-) But none of these wonderful displays of Jesus' power would be considered the cornerstone event of His ministry.
-) **SLIDE 19**. And that narrows it down to three significant events in the life of Jesus that may be considered His cornerstone event. And those three events would be the birth of Jesus, the death of Jesus, and the resurrection of Jesus.
-) Christians and even theologians could debate all night long which one of these events could be considered the cornerstone event in the ministry of Jesus.
-) You can't have death or a resurrection without a birth. So, the birth of Jesus must be the cornerstone event of His ministry.
-) You can't have resurrection without a birth or a death. So, either the birth or the death of Jesus must be the cornerstone event of His ministry.
-) OK. We know that all three of these events are intertwined. We know that all three of these events are monumental in terms of redemptive history. But I am convinced that one of these three events is the cornerstone event of the ministry of Jesus. And I'll bet you know which one it is.
-) I'm going to share with you some Scripture verses that attest to my belief that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone event in His ministry. Let's get ready to fill in some blanks in our bulletins based on 1COR 15:12-19.

-) **SLIDE 20-22.** 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-19.
-) Paul now begins his argument saying, “*If there is no resurrection from the dead, then ...*” If this is true, then let’s look at the domino effect it has for Christianity. FITB.
-) **SLIDE 23.** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then **CHRIST** has not risen from the dead. If the Father did not roll that stone away and raise His own Son from the grave, then Christianity is a false religion based on a lie, and Jesus is still dead.
-) **SLIDE 24.** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then preachers are **FALSE** witnesses for God. If a preacher is to proclaim the Word of God, then by preaching the resurrection of Jesus, I am proclaiming a false teaching. And if I teach error, then take me out back and shoot me.
-) **SLIDE 25.** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then **PREACHING** the Word of God is in vain. I am wasting my time speaking to you and you are wasting your time listening to me. Without a resurrection, there is no gospel. There is no good news. There is no salvation.
-) **SLIDE 26.** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then the **DEAD** who trusted in Christ are hopelessly lost. All the NT saints who trusted in Jesus and the OT saints who believed in a resurrection of the faithful are lost.
-) **SLIDE 27.** JOHN 11:23-27.
-) **SLIDE 28.** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then our **FAITH** is worthless. The faith that you and I have in this man Jesus of Nazareth from 2000 years ago, is faith in a fantasy. It’s like believing that Captain Kirk of the starship Enterprise or Luke Skywalker and Princess Leah are really out there in deep space ready to save the universe from the dark side.
-) **SLIDE 29.** If there is no resurrection of the dead, then we all remain in our **SINS**. This is a really big problem. Without a resurrection, then the cross becomes meaningless.

-) Without the cross, we have no forgiveness. And without forgiveness, we never restore our broken relationship with the Father. Our sins will drive us into the depths of hell.
-) **SLIDE 30**. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then we should be pitied for our false **HOPE**. We have placed our hope in a person who is still stuck in a grave. That is no hope at all.
-) But there is a resurrection of the dead. That is foundational Christianity. We believe in resurrection.
-) And since there is a resurrection of the dead, then we can be assured that 1) Christ was raised from the dead; 2) preachers are true witnesses for God; 3) our preaching is not in vain; 4) the OT saints and those who have passed on before us whose faith was in Christ are not lost; 5) our faith has hope; 6) our sins are forgiven; 7) the ones to be pitied are not the believers but those whose hearts have been hardened and would rather follow the world.
-) **SLIDE 31**. What if I buy into this Jesus thing, but I can't quite swallow the resurrection part of it? Must I believe in the resurrection to be a Christian? Absolutely. ROMANS 10:8-10.
-) Cornerstone. Yes, Jesus is the cornerstone of Christianity and the church. And I am convinced that His Resurrection from the dead is the cornerstone event in redemptive history.
-) Other religions have other saviors and prophets and teachers. But they all died, and they are all still dead. Not our Savior. Not our cornerstone. Not Jesus Christ. He lives!

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