

CornerStone

Preacher: Bobby Stafford

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The CornerStone Concept



The wise man builds his house upon the solid rock.

The cornerstone concept comes from the first stone set when constructing a masonry foundation, important since all other stones will be aligned with this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure. Therefore, this stone must be perfectly square and flat on all sides. Then the stone must be set in place in the exact spot and oriented in the proper direction. Traditionally, the corner stone was placed at the north-east corner of the structure. This was considered a position of importance. If this first stone is not cut and set correctly it will affect the entire building. Walls will not be parallel. Measurements will be off. Even the floor might be uneven.

As you can see, a lot of planning and preparation is involved in getting this first stone perfect. Doing so makes the entire building

project go much smoother and easier. The "Cornerstone Concept" applies to many other endeavors. There is usually one key element that must be done perfectly in order for everything to be completed. This is usually accomplished with proper planning and following the various steps or tasks of that plan.

We learn from God's word that before He created everything He had a plan. You see, God in his omnipotence, knew what man would do and how he would react. This is foreknowledge, not predestination. He knew that man would need to be saved so He planned for it and set the corner stone of the foundation for our salvation, Christ.

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

Tit 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

That foundation uses Jesus as the corner stone:

Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Why was Jesus used as the corner stone? Because he was perfect.

Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

So, with the corner stone in place the foundation was laid for the plan of salvation. However, look closely at the verse above, Heb. 5:9. It has a caveat at the end. This eternal salvation is "unto all them that obey". The first step in that obedience is to make Christ the corner stone of your life.

Kim Reynolds

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As we begin our efforts to start an electronic newsletter we realize we have a lot to learn, not just with God's inspired word, but also with the software we are using. Please feel free to contact us with ideas and suggestions

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 10:50 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

The Builder's Stone

When we were young, we used to sing a little song about the foolish man who built his house on sand and the wise man who built his house on rock. We used to beat our fists together in imitation of a carpenter's hammer in time to this song and learn of the results of the wise and the foolish builders as the storms of trial and temptation beat upon their houses. We learned from this song that it was best to build our houses on rock so that we could withstand these storms. This lesson was taken from a parable taught by Jesus in Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:47-49.

In the days when Jesus Christ walked the earth, stone was the strongest material available that could be used to build. Even today when buildings or other structures are put up, the builders will dig down until they encounter hard rock and use that rock as a foundation for what is being constructed. They know that a rock foundation will endure and support their buildings against the inevitable forces of nature which will come to bear on them.

Christians are builders too and the houses they are seeking to build are spiritual houses where they are safe and secure from the storms of life's temptations. We have a similar stone upon which to build our hopes that is far more enduring than any earthly rock. The Psalmist wrote of the coming Messiah as the stone which the builders rejected which later became the head of the corner in Psalms 118:22. Isaiah wrote of a sure foundation of stone which was tried and proven upon which those who trust can depend (Isaiah 28:16). This sure foundation was called the corner stone and would be the manifestation of the promised savior who would come.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ came to be that stone. Having endured the humiliation and agony of the cross, he was indeed proven as Isaiah prophesied. Jesus taught the parable of the foolish husbandmen who re-

jected and killed the vineyard owner's son in his absence. He then quoted the Psalmist's words in regard to the rejection and killing of the son of the vineyard owner, "*Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner*" (Matthew 21:42). Paul referred to Jesus as the "chief corner stone" in his letter to the Ephesians (2:20). Peter quoted Isaiah when he referred to Jesus Christ as the stone which the builders rejected who later became the "*head of the corner*" (1 Peter 2:7).

Jesus Christ once said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*" (John 14:6). There are many things men can build their hopes on. They can trust in riches, they can strive to achieve power and authority or they can simply seek after the pleasures of life. All of these things are fleeting and cannot endure. Riches, power and life pass away like a vapor and before we know it, we are standing in the face of eternity and we can't take any of it with us. But if we have built our hopes on the foundation of Jesus Christ, using Him as our cornerstone then we cannot fail. Our treasures are laid away in heaven where moth cannot eat nor rust corrupt. Our hopes are built on the foundation which has been tried, tested, proven and endures throughout the storms of life's temptations and into eternity.

Truly Jesus Christ is the foundation we can base our faith on. But we must be careful that the house we build on that foundation is based on the truth of God's word. Jesus taught in Matthew 15:8-9 that "*This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*". Jesus says when we follow the doctrines of men instead of God's our hearts are not right and far from Him. He also said that fol-

lowing the commandments of men makes our worship vain, empty and worthless. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth teaching them that everyman must "*take heed how he buildeth thereon*". Paul then went on to say "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*". We must be careful to make certain what we build on the rock foundation of Christ is of Him and not the building or teachings of some man.

In the parable of the wise and foolish builders, Jesus told us exactly how to build our houses on the solid rock foundation. We build our houses on the rock when we hear and obey the instructions of Jesus (Matthew 7:25), and they will stand up to the temptations of life. Jesus went on to say that those who do not obey His instructions have built their spiritual hopes on sand and will fall in stormy times (Matthew 7:26). Jesus is the author of salvation unto all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:9). We can know and be certain that when we hear and obey the voice of our Lord we can be assured our houses are built on the cornerstone of the Christian faith, Jesus Christ.

David Hersey

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.
[Philippians 2:3]

Mission Work in India

The Indian Mission which we have supported for some time has made some significant progress in the past several months. When Bontha Esudas came to us two years ago he was preaching in three congregations and riding a small motorcycle from village to village in order to conduct services, teach and evangelize.

Esudas came to us with many goals and hopes for the work of the church in India. Among his goals was the procurement of a car which could be used to transport him and others to the worship services, the sick to the hospital and aid in the evangelizing of more villages. About a year ago, Esudas was able to raise the funds for the down payment for a new car. He now has the car and is using it while making payments on it from his monthly support.

Since acquiring his car, he has helped start three more congregations and is currently preaching and conducting services in six with the help of his son who has joined with him as a teacher and gospel preacher. He is currently working on planting a seventh church in the tribal areas near where he lives. These tribal people live outside normal society and are not influenced by denominations.

Another work which Esudas wished to start was a Christian School for the children. Esudas and the people where he lives are in the lowest caste of the society. They are very poor and unable to afford education for their children. By educating these children, it will be possible to help them to acquire better jobs in the future and help the Lord's church become more self sufficient. At this time, the entire effort of the Lord's church is wholly dependant upon the contributions of the saints in other parts of the world. Without our support, the entire effort, congregations, school, and work would collapse and the light of the truth would go out in this part of the world. It is the hope and prayer of all that some day these people can raise themselves out of poverty to a level where they can be self supporting and conduct missionary work of their own.



The Christian school has been started now and classes have begun for the three lowest grades. The school is being run from Esudas' home where his wife, three children and 9 orphans under his care live. This effort is absolutely dependant upon the contributions of the saints.

People from all over the country have responded to him with support. Plans are being made right now to secure Esudas with his own bank account in the United States where he can obtain his funds safely, securely and without the cost of bank transfer and Western Union Fees. Currently several congregations and individuals from across the United States send their support to Esudas through the church of Christ here at Granby, MO. We are currently supporting him as are some individuals within this congregation. It is truly a blessing to be a part of such a sincere and noble effort for the glory of God and the work of His kingdom. Let's be sure and keep this mission in our prayers as it is wholly dependant upon the grace and providence of God and the generosity of the saints.



For more information on Esudas and the mission work in India, please go to the website at:

www.churchofChristIndia.com

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The congregation recently hosted our youth gathering at the worship facility on March 8th, 2009. Youth of all ages from all around the community and from neighboring congregations came to the youth gathering this time. We had about 65 in attendance counting all the youth at heart, both young and old. There were games, pizza, singing, a devotional and fellowship. The youth gathering started at 4:00 PM and continued into our regular 6:00 PM worship service. It was a real treat and we at the Granby church appreciated all the support and attendance from the area.

Bobby presented a lesson on how we can influence others in life by our actions and conduct in our everyday lives. By living right, we can all do our part to make the world a little brighter and better place, with not as much darkness as there is now.

We have published some of the photos of the activities on an online web photo album. A video of the Devotional is also available. All of these can be seen by going to our website at <http://www.granbychurchofchrist.org/YouthGathering/March09/index.htm>

We thank all who came and participated and supported this effort, and we look forward to the next one coming before the end of the school year. The next one will be held at Monark Springs Park.



Eph 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, **Eph 5:16** Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. **Eph 5:17** Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

We each have a commodity that is very valuable. It is of a limited supply, although we do not know how much we each have. We might run out of it at any moment with no warning. It is something we can share with our friends and family, we can sell to the highest bidder, or keep it all for ourselves. We might sell some, share some and use some for ourselves. However, what we have done with it in the past and what we do with it now determines the value it will have in the future. Only some of its value

What Will You Do?

can be measured in dollars and cents.

It can not be stored and saved for future use, but good planning is necessary for wise use in the future. Wise use of this commodity can actually increase the total amount we end up having. The rate of supply is the same for everyone, but some people seem to consume it faster than others.

Without it we would have nothing; no house, no cars, no computers, absolutely nothing. Although it can be measured, divided, and given to others, you can not touch it, smell it, taste it, hear it, or see it. Amazingly, it has cost us nothing to acquire. This might be the reason many people foolishly waste so much of it.

What will you do with your time?

Kim Reynolds