

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying

Message Five : Christ as the Stone-Savior Producing Living Stones for God's Building

I. Overview:

In Acts 4:10-12 we see that as the cornerstone Christ was despised and crucified by the Jewish leaders, the builders, but raised from the dead by God, becoming the cornerstone of God's building with God's salvation being uniquely in Him. Psalm 118 speaks of Christ as the cornerstone for God's building. In Acts 4:12 Peter proclaimed Christ as the Stone-Savior, who is producing living stones for God's building. I Peter 2:4 speaks of Christ as a living stone. We are living stones through regeneration and transformation. Eventually, this building will consummate in the New Jerusalem, the stone city. We are becoming the precious stones that will be built up. This process takes place as we daily contact Christ, the living stone, and are transformed.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. What does Christ as the cornerstone and God's economy relate?

Christ as the cornerstone is for the building up of the church in the New Testament age. In God's New Testament economy Christ as the cornerstone, in His saving us, first makes us living stones for the building up of God's spiritual house, and then, in the process of His transforming us, builds us up into a dwelling place of God, that He may carry out God's eternal economy for God's good pleasure.

B. Explain how Christ was chosen and what to relate with God's building.

Christ was chosen by God in eternity past to be the cornerstone for God's spiritual building. Then, the Jewish leaders as the builders rejected Him to the uttermost, to such an extent that they put Him on the cross. On the day of His resurrection the Lord Jesus was made the cornerstone by God. Both Christ's resurrection and His ascension prove and confirm that He is the One whom God has chosen.

Day 2 —

A. How can Christ as the cornerstone do everything for us, for God's building?

Everything Christ is, everything He has done, and everything He is doing is due to the fact that He is the cornerstone. It is by His being the cornerstone that He could die for us, that we could be crucified with Him, made alive with Him, resurrected with Him, and seated with Him in the heavenlies, and that He could save us, transform us into precious stones, and build us together to be God's habitation.

B. Why do we lack of the revelation and knowing of Christ as the cornerstone?

Acts 4:12 says, "And there is salvation in no other, for neither is there another name under heaven given among men in which we must be saved." The word in verse 12 about there not being another name in which we must be saved is often quoted by evangelists, but whoever points out that the Savior is the cornerstone? If Christ had not been made the cornerstone, He could not be the Savior.

Day 3 —

A. What is the spiritual burden of Peter's quoting Psalm with Acts 4:12?

Peter's quoting Psalm indicates that he preached Christ not only as the Savior for the salvation of sinners but also as the stone for God's building. It is such a Christ who is the unique salvation to sinners, and it is in His unique name under heaven, a name despised and rejected by the Jewish leaders but honoured and exalted by God, that sinners must be saved not only from sin but also to participate in God's building.

B. How did God make use of Christ the stone for His building?

God made Him the cornerstone. The more the Jewish leaders rejected Him, the more God used Him. God honored Him by raising Him up from among the dead and making Him a particular stone, the cornerstone, the prominent stone that joins the walls of a building. As the cornerstone of God's habitation, Christ joins the wall of the Jewish believers and the wall of the Gentile believers.

Day 4 —

A. What does it mean spiritually to be changed Peter's name with his calling?

In John 1 we see that Andrew brought his brother, Simon Peter, to the Lord Jesus. "Looking at him, Jesus said, You are Simon, the son of John; you shall be called Cephas (which is interpreted, Peter)". Here the name Peter means "a stone," which is material for God's building. The Lord Jesus seemed to be saying, "You are Peter, a stone. I will build My church with stones."

B. Explain concerning the building of God Christ is the stone for every aspect.

According to 4:12, this stone is the One in whom we can be saved. Hence, He is the Stone-Savior. As the Stone-Savior, He is solid, strong, and reliable. We can rely on Him and stand on Him. This stone is the rock, the foundation stone, and the cornerstone. In Zechariah 4:7 we see that He is even the topstone. Christ is the material for God's building. God's building is entirely of Christ.

Day 5 —

A. Expound Christ being the stumbling stone and smiting stone.

Concerning Himself as the stumbling stone and smiting stone, the Lord Jesus said, "He who falls on this stone shall be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it shall crush him to powder and scatter him like chaff". To the believers, Christ is the foundation stone in whom we trust. But to the unbelieving Jews, He is the stumbling stone, and to the nations He will be the smiting stone.

B. How can we be transformed into living stones as we were created of clay?

The seed is for life-planting; the stone is for building. As life to us, Christ is the seed; for God's building, He is the stone. We were created of clay. But at regeneration we received the seed of the divine life, which by its growing in us transforms us into living stones.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the church's priesthood service being not individual but coordinate.

We cannot serve God by ourselves individually. We must serve in coordination with others. One stone can never be a house; it must be built up together with other stones to form a building. It is impossible for an individual Christian to constitute the priesthood. It is only when we are built together that proper service can be rendered to God. Real service to God is a matter of the building.

B. How will we be transformed into precious stones for God's building?

If we long for the milk of the word, this milk will be like a current of living water flowing within us. As we stay in this flow, the current will carry away our natural substance and replace it with Christ as heavenly, divine minerals. Gradually, we will be transformed; that is, we will become precious stones. If we would be transformed, every day we need to come to the Lord as milk.

III. Conclusion:

What God desires to accomplish in His economy is to build His eternal habitation, which is the mingling of God and man. Tabernacle in John 1:14 signifies that the One incarnated is the mingling of God and man; Jesus said in John 2:19, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." This temple rebuilt in resurrection not only contains Christ, but also all of us believers. God's building must be Christ as the cornerstone with us believers as stones transformed. We were created of clay, but the words of God as the seed of the divine life entered into us through our regeneration. The building work is now going on as we daily, even hourly, come to Christ as milk and drink Him. Then we will have the flow, the current, that transforms us from clay into stone for God's building.