

I want to enhance how you think about salvation for just a few minutes here...[Favor a side](#)

We often think of salvation as what we have been saved from...have been saved from a lot

- a. **Penalty of sin** - Salvation saves a person from the judicial consequences of their actions
- b. **Power of sin** - Liberation from destructive habits, addictions, or a self-centered nature
- c. **Presence of sin** - Ultimate rescue from physical frailty, sickness, and eternal death
- d. **Holy Priesthood** - All believers in Christ share in his priestly status | [Catholic](#)

- Special class of people who mediate knowledge, presence, and forgiveness of Christ
- They have the right & authority to read, interpret, & apply the teachings of Scripture

I want you to hear what you have as a Holy Priesthood to God...this should excite you

[Direct Access to God](#) | [Equal Spiritual Status](#) | [Responsibility for the Word](#) | [Mutual Ministry](#)

Here is what Peter is saying...we are a holy priesthood built on the cornerstone of Christ

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," ⁸ and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- There is something deeply human about wanting stability...[cruise ship vs canoe](#)
- The world is a canoe...shifting...we long for something solid, something unchanging
- Passage today, Peter presents a powerful image: **Jesus Christ as the Living Stone**

And the question before us is simple but weighty: **What are you building your life on?**

Big Idea - On the rock of Jesus new life is found

["The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"](#)

First century, the [cornerstone](#)...most critical stone in a building's foundation. First stone laid

- Determined **alignment** structure | Set **angles** for all other stones | weight and stability
- Cornerstone placed incorrectly, whole building would be crooked, weak, or collapse

If you don't get the Jesus set in your life right...this life, after life, is going to be in shambles

[A lot of people are putting the Jesus stone in the wrong place...putting Jesus on top of stuff](#)

[Today...I'm going to give us three benefits of getting Jesus into the right place in your life](#)

1. The Cornerstone of Christ: Creates an unshamed identity (4-6)

- ⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,
- Jesus is a living stone – Stones are not living...they are stagnate and carry no power
 - **Why is he living?** The Resurrection | The Source of Life...**not a monument looked at**
 - **Rejected by men (Ps 118:22)** – Executed criminal | Stumbling block rather...foundation
 - **Chosen by God and Precious** - World saw a discarded rock, God saw the **Cornerstone**
 - **Chosen:** This implies a specific, divine purpose...God set that stone in place
 - **Precious:** word suggests "of infinite value." | [Now...this is where identity comes in](#)

⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Peter describes believers as "**living stones.**" - Christians are joined to Christ...possess life!

[Your identity is forged by whatever you build your life on](#)

- **Spiritual House:** Christians are not meant to be "monoliths" standing alone.
 - Being fitted together form new temple—not made of marble and gold, but of people
- **Holy Priesthood:** In the Old Testament, the priesthood was a specific class of people
 - Peter argues that *all* believers now have direct access to God
- **Spiritual Sacrifices:** Instead of animal sacrifices, believers offer lives, prayers, & praise.

⁶For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Isaiah 28:16. He's telling his readers He was the promised foundation long before He arrived
whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.

"shame" isn't emotion; idea of being let down or disappointed by something you trusted in
[Cathedral of St. John the Divine – 1892 – Episcopal Diocese - St. John's the unfinished](#)
This is the Kingdom of Christ – Cornerstone laid 33 AD and has been built ever since

Takeaway - Exercise devotion

[Prioritize the Presence of God](#) | [Practice Obedience Purposefully](#) | [Praise with Passion](#)
You are a part of something so much bigger than yourself...(Living Stones)...remember that

2. The Cornerstone of Christ: Conquered an unbelieving world (7-8)

⁷So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," ⁸ and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

The value of something is subjective [Marie-Thérèse - \\$139.4M – I think it's just awful](#)
[Peter argues Jesus ultimate "subjective" figure human history, with eternal consequences](#)

- God doesn't force us to love Him...He gives us an option about how we feel about Jesus
- Two responses to Jesus: **Receive Him and are honored**, Or you **reject Him and stumble**
- This passage shows us that **Jesus is not neutral**. He is a dividing line – [Three things text](#)

a. **Christ is Precious to Believers (v. 7a)** "So the honor is for you who believe..."

- To those who believe, Jesus is: **Valuable** | **Treasure** | **Foundation** | **Honor itself**
- Believers don't just accept Jesus—they **esteem Him** – [What do I mean by that?](#)

i. **Assigning Supreme Value** - Treat his words, life, and sacrifice as most valuable assets

ii. **Prioritizing His Perspective** - Before acting, you weigh choices against his teachings

iii. **Personal Devotion vs. Public Ritual** - Aren't just following rules; responding to person

b. **Christ is Rejected by the Unbelieving (v. 7b)** "The stone that the builders rejected"

- Ps. 118. "builders" (religious leaders and world) evaluated Jesus—and **rejected Him**
- They saw Him as unnecessary | Unimpressive | Unworthy | [Not worthy of my life](#)

Yet God overturned their verdict: Rejected stone became **cornerstone**—the most important

[Truth: You may reject Christ, but you cannot change who He is](#)

c. **Christ Becomes a Stumbling Stone (v. 8)** "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense..."

- Instead of building on Him, unbelievers: Trip over Him | Take offense to Him | [Why?](#)
[Jesus confronts: Pride \("I can't save myself"\)](#) | [Sin \("I am guilty"\)](#) | [Control \("He is Lord, not me"\)](#)
People don't stumble over Jesus because He is unclear—but because He is **unwelcome**
- [Imagine a large stone placed in the middle of a path](#)

- [One person sees it and builds on it, using it as a foundation.](#)
- [Another ignores it and trips over it, falling hard | Stone didn't change—response did](#)

Takeaway - Surrender Pride

Confess, Consider, Concede

- [Confess your pride honestly before God \(1 John 1:9\)](#)
- [Consider Jesus more important than anything else \(Philippians 2:3\)](#)
- [Concede your will to God's authority and plan \(James 4:7\)](#)

3. The Cornerstone of Christ: Compels an unfailing purpose

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession

Verse 9, Peter uses four distinct titles rooted in OT promises to describe the Church

- **Chosen Race:** This isn't about biology; it's about belonging.
 - Headhunted by God | Not a spiritual accident; Intentionally selected by the Creator
- **Royal Priesthood:** Ancient world, you were either a king or a priest, never both
 - In Christ, you have **authority** of royalty...**access** of a priest to go directly before God
- **Holy Nation:** To be "holy" means to be set apart for a specific purpose
 - Called distinct culture—defined by values of Heaven rather than trends of world
- **People for His Own Possession:** You are God's "special treasure."
 - Greek implies something acquired at a great cost | Valuable because who owns you

that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light

Because you are: Chosen Race | Royal Priesthood | Holy Nation | People of His Possession...

- You proclaim movement from darkness into marvelous light...you tell people...**moved**
 - **Ignorance or Confusion:** Not knowing one's purpose or the nature of truth
 - **Isolation:** Being cut off from a source of life or community...**you've moved into...**
- **"Marvelous Light"** represents: clarity, truth, and a "wake-up call" to a new reality
 - It is described as *marvelous* because the contrast is so sharp that it evokes wonder

2010 – 33 Chilean miners were trapped 2300 feet below the surface for 69 days

¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Takeaway - Proclaim Hope

Proclaim with Your Voice: Share the gospel clearly and confidently

- Speak of the hope found in Jesus in everyday conversations

2. Proclaim with Your Values: Let your conduct make the gospel visible.

- When people see your life, they should see hope in action.

3. Proclaim with Your Victory: Walk in the confidence of Christ's finished work

- Your endurance becomes a testimony that hope is real and alive

Beginning of this sermon...favor a side...love the coin...both the saved from and the saved to

Big Idea - On the rock of Jesus new life is found