

The Blessings of Christian Election:

The Cornerstone, Living Stones, and the Household of Faith.

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?
- This week we learned that Christ is the chief cornerstone of faith, believers are living stones, and God is building a household of faith. We can think of these metaphors in three simple ways...Jesus, Us, and the Historical Church. Perhaps we don't always reflect on this truth, but we're a part of a family of faith that stretches from the cross to the coming of Christ. Does this idea create a greater sense of belonging and togetherness in your heart with other believers, even those from other generations? How does it hit you to be cognizant of the bigger historical family that God is building...of which we get to be a part?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- We learned that God is presently building a household of faith. Peter used the metaphor of building a large structure to illustrate the household of faith that is being built upon the gospel of Jesus Christ. Peter wrote that Jesus is the chief cornerstone, and every believer is a stone in the building of God. Peter made a point to emphasize that Jesus is a living stone, and so are believers. We're alive because He is alive. How do these metaphors speak to the kind of Christian experience that God has in store for us? Would God make us to be living stones only to live out a dead religious orthodoxy?
- Peter taught us that we'll either build our life on Jesus by accepting Him as our Lord and Savior, or we'll stumble and trip over Jesus if we reject him with offense and unbelief. Jesus will either be a cornerstone or a tripping stone, but He's one or the other in every person's life. Based on your personal study and observations, why do you think a person would be offended by the gospel, and how can these things be a warning even to believers?
- Believers enjoy tremendous privileges and benefits as members of the household of faith. Let's unpack verses 9-10. How does knowing that we are priests and kings...or a royal generation...have an impact on how we view ourselves as kingdom citizens? Are we taking advantage of our kingdom benefits?

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- Ephesians 2:19-21
- Matthew 21:44
- Romans 9:32-33
- Acts 4:11-12

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

1. This lesson challenges us to examine our faith in Jesus. What is your life foundation? Is Jesus a cornerstone that you are building your life upon, or a stumbling stone in your own life that you keep tripping over in unbelief? If you have never accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ, why not receive Him today and become a member of the household of faith and a living stone?
2. As members of the household of faith, we have amazing benefits and privileges. What would it do to your own spiritual confidence to speak these benefits over your life in affirmation, and to begin seeing yourself in light of these blessings daily?