

West Valley Presbyterian Church

Jesus Christ the Cornerstone

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In both the Old and New Testaments, Jesus Christ is often referred to as a “stone.” – often a cornerstone....Now it may be that Jesus actually was a mason – not a carpenter – because the Greek word for both are used interchangeably. And people have wondered this because Jesus uses a lot of examples about stones to make his point in his teaching.



Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, the Psalms contained an accurate prophecy that although Jesus would be rejected by the builders, he would become the cornerstone.

Psalm 118:22

The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner

This psalm is quoted 5 times in the New Testament in reference to Jesus

Now, in the ancient world, the cornerstone was the most important stone in the building.

It set the level, angle, and outer dimensions of the building.

It had to be level and squared so that all the other stones could be set from it.

If it were not level, then as the walls of the building were erected, they would lean and fall in.

The whole building would be off kilter if the cornerstone were not in the right place, at the right position, at the right angle, and strong enough to stand the pressure of the entire structure that was being built against it and on it.

The cornerstone couldn't shift, or crack, or change. It had to stay the same and bear the weight, the brunt, of the structure that was being built.

Now, the image of the stone being rejected comes from the ancient quarries where highly-trained stonemasons carefully chose the stones used in construction.

The integrity of the structure being built depended on the cornerstone containing exactly the right lines and size.

Builders inspected many stones, and they'd do this for hours at a time - rejecting each one until they found exactly the one that they wanted.

Rejected stones might be used in other parts of the building, but never as the cornerstone.

The cornerstone had to be the perfect shape, size, and had to have the right angles to work...

The cornerstone also was often tested in various ways ...before it was laid down so that builders would be convinced that it could stand the pressure of the construction process.

Now if you think about it, Jesus alone was able to withstand the pressure of the cross - Jesus alone was able to bear the weight of all of our sins.

It looked on the cross as if he had been rejected by people and by God -

It looked like he had failed...

but actually he stood the test and was victorious in the resurrection, and that is why today he is called the chief cornerstone of the church - holding us altogether in him.

We wouldn't be a church if we weren't a forgiven people because of Jesus Christ being the cornerstone

We wouldn't be a church if we had no hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ who promised us that we would be with him after death

We wouldn't be a church if we didn't know that because He lives, we too can have abundant life right here, right now, and know that we are never alone..

Isaiah 28:16

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts in him will never be dismayed.

If you are trusting in God today, you will not be disappointed. That cornerstone, Jesus Christ will not fail you. He will hold you strong and secure through all of life's trials. He will not let you down.

He is chosen by God, has endured the test, and is utterly reliable.

As we look back over 60 years, we rejoice and celebrate the construction of this building with bricks and mortar

But even more, we celebrate the spiritual growth that has happened here because of this building with

Jesus Christ as the central cornerstone – the foundation of all that we do.

Jesus Christ alone is why we gather here
Sunday after Sunday

Jesus Christ alone is who we have grown to know better and better down through the years

Jesus Christ alone is the one who we want future generations to know and why we keep doing outreach and service in his name with zeal and passion

Jesus Christ alone is the chief cornerstone and we can't be a church without everything else coming into alliance with him

Everything we do is built upon him, and the hope we have in him...

He is our point of orientation, our strength, our support, and the one who holds us up, the great forgiver and savior of the church ...

Nothing is more true than the statement in 1 Corinthians 3:11 that says, **“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ”**