

## Strengthen Thy Brethern Lesson 11 – Be Strong Considering Him

### Key Verses

1 Peter 2:1-3 <sup>1</sup> Wherefore laying aside all **malice**, and all **guile**, and **hypocrisies**, and **envies**, and **all evil speakings**, <sup>2</sup> As **newborn babes**, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: <sup>3</sup> If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

**1 Peter 2:4-8** <sup>4</sup> **To whom** (Jesus) coming, *as* **unto a living stone**, **disallowed indeed of men**, but **chosen of God**, and **precious**, <sup>5</sup> **Ye also**, as **lively stones**, are **built up a spiritual house**, an **holy priesthood**, to **offer up spiritual sacrifices**, **acceptable to God by Jesus Christ**. <sup>6</sup> Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, *Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.* <sup>7</sup> **Unto you therefore which believe** **he is precious**: but **unto them which be disobedient**, **the stone which the builders disallowed**, **the same is made the head of the corner**, <sup>8</sup> And **a stone of stumbling**, and **a rock of offence**, *even to them which stumble at the word*, being **disobedient**: whereunto also **they were appointed**.

This epistle was addressed to the elect pilgrims of the Dispersed Jews scattered through Asia Minor (Turkey). In this passage we come to the key to the whole epistle.

### **The Precious Things of God”**

**The Trial of Faith - 1 Peter 1:7** <sup>7</sup> That the **trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold** that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**The Blood of Christ - 1 Peter 1:19** <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

**The Living Stone - 1 Peter 2:4** <sup>4</sup> To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

**The Lord Jesus Christ - 1 Peter 2:7** <sup>7</sup> Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

**The Like Precious Faith - 2 Peter 1:1** <sup>1</sup> Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

**The Precious Promises - 2 Peter 1:4** <sup>4</sup> Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

**1 Peter 2:4-8** <sup>4</sup> To whom (Jesus) coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, <sup>5</sup> Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

**Jesus is the Chief Corner Stone (Rejected by men, Chosen by God, Precious)**

**Matthew 21:33-45** <sup>33</sup> Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: <sup>34</sup> And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. <sup>35</sup> And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. <sup>37</sup> But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. <sup>38</sup> But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. <sup>39</sup> And they caught him, and cast *him* out of the vineyard, and slew *him*. <sup>40</sup> When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? <sup>41</sup> They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out *his* vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. <sup>42</sup> Jesus saith unto them, *Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?* <sup>43</sup> Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. <sup>44</sup> *And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.* <sup>45</sup> And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

**Psalm 118:22-23** <sup>22</sup> The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. <sup>23</sup> This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

**John 1:10-14** <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup> He came unto his own, and his own received him not..

**Isaiah 53:3** He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**Isaiah 28:16** <sup>16</sup> Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, *Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.* (All who build their lives upon the foundation of Christ will no longer have to run here and there seeking protection from enemies. Christ is the foundation stone that supports His followers amid the stormy trials and temptations of this world).

(Peter before the Sanhedrin after healing the lame man)

Acts 4:8-12<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,<sup>9</sup> If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;<sup>10</sup> Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, **that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.<sup>11</sup> This **is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner**.<sup>12</sup> Neither is **there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved**.

**The symbolism of the living cornerstone says three significant things.**

1. **The living cornerstone is the first stone laid**. All other stones are placed after it. It is the **preeminent** stone in time. So it is with Christ; He is *the first* of God's new movement.

⇒ Christ is **the captain of salvation**. All others are crew members who follow Him.  
*"For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (Hebrews 2:10).*

⇒ Christ is the **author of eternal salvation**, of our faith. All others are the readers of the story.  
*"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).*

2. The **cornerstone is the supportive stone**. All other stones are placed upon it and held up by it. They all rest upon it. It is the preeminent stone in position and power. So it is with Christ; He is the support and power, the Foundation of God's new movement.

⇒ Christ is **the Head cornerstone**, the only true foundation upon which man can build. All crumble who are not laid upon Him.  
*"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11).*

⇒ Christ is **the chief cornerstone** upon which all others are **fitly formed together**. All who wish to be fitly formed together have to be laid upon Him.  
*"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the **building fitly framed together** groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephes. 2:20-22).*

3. The living stone is **the stone to which men must come if they are to become a part of God's building**. It is to Christ that we must come. No one can be a part of God's building unless he places himself upon the foundation stone laid by God. God accepts no one who refuses to become a part of His building.

*"Nevertheless the foundation of God [Christ] standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (2 Tim. 2:19).*

## Our Foundation

**Matthew 7:24-27** <sup>24</sup> Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: <sup>25</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. <sup>26</sup> And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: <sup>27</sup> And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and **great was the fall of it.**

*He is the foundation of our lives. Everything is built upon Him. He is the shelter in the time of Storm in our lives. If we reject Him, He becomes a terror, a stumbling block for He is also be the Judge.*

*Jesus Christ is the Living Stone. How can a stone be living? It cannot. This is simply a picture of how God looks at Christ and His followers: they are like a building that is being built by God Himself. The foundation of God's building is His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. If a person wants to be a part of God's building, he has to place his life upon the foundation Stone, Christ Himself.*

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15** <sup>11</sup> For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; <sup>13</sup> Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

**1 Corinthians 3:16** <sup>16</sup> Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

**1 Corinthians 10:1-4** <sup>1</sup> Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup> And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup> And did all eat the same spiritual meat; <sup>4</sup> And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

## Judgment

**Revelation 6:12-17** <sup>12</sup> And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; <sup>13</sup> And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. <sup>14</sup> And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. <sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; <sup>16</sup> And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: <sup>17</sup> For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

## Our Faith

The object of our faith is and must be Christ Alone.

**John 14:6** <sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

The object of our faith must be Jesus – He will grant us heavenly joy

**John 15:5-11** <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He **that abideth in me**, and I in him, **the same bringeth forth much fruit**: for without me ye can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. <sup>7</sup> **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you**, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. <sup>8</sup> **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. <sup>10</sup> If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things have I spoken unto you, that **my joy** might remain in you, and *that* **your joy might be full**.

**Psalms 139:17** <sup>17</sup> How **precious also are thy thoughts unto me**, O God! how great is the sum of them!

**Luke 10:38-42** <sup>38</sup> Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. <sup>39</sup> *And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.* <sup>40</sup> But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. <sup>41</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto her, *Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:* <sup>42</sup> *But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

**John 12:1-8** <sup>1</sup> Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they made him a supper; and **Martha served**: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> *Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.* <sup>4</sup> Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, which should betray him, <sup>5</sup> Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? <sup>6</sup> This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. <sup>7</sup> Then said Jesus, **Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.** <sup>8</sup> For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

**Matthew 26:6-13** <sup>6</sup> Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of **Simon the leper**,  
<sup>7</sup> There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and  
poured it on his head, as he sat *at meat*. <sup>8</sup> But when his disciples saw *it*, they had  
indignation, saying, To what purpose *is* this waste? <sup>9</sup> For this ointment might have been  
sold for much, and given to the poor. <sup>10</sup> When Jesus understood *it*, he said unto them,  
**Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.** <sup>11</sup> For ye have  
the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. <sup>12</sup> **For in that she hath poured  
this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.** <sup>13</sup> Verily I say unto you,  
Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, *there* shall also this, that  
this woman hath done, **be told for a memorial of her.**

**Simon the Leper:** *Jesus was in the house of Simon the leper. Little is known about Simon. He was probably a leper who had been healed by Jesus. Tradition says he was the **husband of Martha.** Scripture also seems to indicate this. Matthew says Jesus was dining in the house of Simon the leper, and John says Martha was serving. This would seem to indicate a close relationship. Martha was probably his wife or older daughter. If she was Simon's wife, then her brother and sister, Lazarus and Mary, seemed to be living with her and Simon. Note that Simon's house was large enough to entertain Jesus and His disciples all at once. On such occasions, he would probably have had servants serving under the direction of his wife and not an older daughter. However, if Martha was Simon's oldest daughter, then Simon was the father of Mary and Lazarus as well. It was while Jesus was in Simon the leper's home that Mary came up to Jesus and anointed Him.*

## Our Fellowship

**1 Peter 2:5-6** <sup>5</sup> **Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

<sup>6</sup> Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, *Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

The Church is a fellowship of believers build upon the Rock, Jesus. We do not become believers through education alone. We need to trust in Christ alone for our salvation. When we do, we become living stones placed by the Father on the sure Foundation - Jesus

**Matthew 16:13-18** <sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?** <sup>14</sup> And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. <sup>15</sup> He saith unto them, **But whom say ye that I am?** <sup>16</sup> And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.** <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.** <sup>18</sup> And I say also unto thee, **That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church;** and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

We become **living stones**, stones that shall exist forever and ever. Note three significant facts.

1. Believers are **being built up into a spiritual house** (1 Peter 2:5). It is a picture of what is called the universal church or universal temple of God. Note that God's house is a **spiritual house** as opposed to **physical**. A physical house is not permanent; it ages, deteriorates, and wastes away. But not **God's spiritual house which** is permanent and eternal.

2. Believers are a **holy priesthood** (1 Peter 2:5). The chief function of the priest is to stand between God and men, **to represent men before God and to present men to God**. But note the Scripture: believers **are being built up as an holy priesthood**. Every single believer now stands before God as a priest. **He can now approach God on his own**. God is not far off and removed from man.

3. Believers **are a fulfillment of prophecy** The prediction that the Messiah would be the chief cornerstone of God's building was made centuries before Christ ever came into the world. God Himself would lay the chief cornerstone. God Himself would send the Messiah into the world and use Him as the foundation of God's eternal house. God would select or elect Him to be the chief cornerstone. God would count His foundation stone precious. He would choose His own Son to become the Foundation Stone for men's lives and for the eternal world God was planning. Believers would not be confounded that is, put to shame, disappointed, and confused. Believing and trusting in Jesus Christ—leaning upon him and building upon Him—is the only way to keep from being eternally confused, shamed, and disappointed.

## The Lost Fate

**1 Peter 2:7-8** <sup>7</sup> Unto you therefore which believe *he is precious*: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, <sup>8</sup> And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

They who believe not the Word of Jesus were appointed to stumble against Him. He is either precious or He is rejected. No middle ground.

**3. (2:7-8)** The third picture—unbelievers are pictured as **disobedient builders**. Christ has done so much for man, He should be the most precious thing in a man's life.

The four points of the Scripture state it well.

1. **Unbelievers disqualify the stone**. They look at the various foundation stones of life and...

- they do not want the Stone [Christ].
- they do not think that the Stone will fit in with their plans.
- they do not believe the Stone [Christ] will suit what they are building.
- they do not believe the Stone [Christ] is worth the price. They just do not think the Stone [Christ] is worth all they are and have.

The point is forceful: they reject and disqualify the stone. They do not want Christ enough to give all they are and have in order to get him.

2. **Christ is made the Head of the corner anyway**. Despite the rejection of men, Christ is made the chief cornerstone of the only permanent and lasting building. God selected and elected Him despite man.

3. **Unbelievers stumble over the stone of Christ**. He is a rock that offends them. What does this mean? When people look at Jesus Christ, they stumble over Him; they do not understand... Simply stated, many people do not understand nor believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He was sent into the world by God to save men; that He was able to live a sinless life because He was the God-Man who had come to earth for that very purpose; that He died and arose from the dead as the Perfect and Ideal Man so that His ideal death and resurrection could cover man.

People **just stumble over the facts or else they are offended by Christ** because He lays the burden of total commitment upon man. After all, if Jesus Christ is truly who He claimed to be, we owe Him our lives—all that we *are and have*. **Most men are not willing to give up the right to their lives and property**. They are even offended at this demand of Christ. Therefore, they stumble over Him. But note:

⇒ to **stumble means that we have tripped up and fallen, that we damage ourselves**.

⇒ to be **offended means that we hurt ourselves**.

Note another fact: We are actually stumbling over the Word, the very Word of God itself. What is so awful about this? The Word of God is the only incorruptible seed on earth that lives and abides forever (cp. [1 Peter 1:23-25](#)). **If we reject the glorious gospel of God's Word**, the glorious gospel that Jesus Christ is the Foundation Stone of God's building, then we are rejecting the only hope of living forever. We are appointing ourselves to a state of unbelief and

disobedience to God. That is, we are steeping ourselves in more and more unbelief and becoming harder and harder to the gospel. We are living lives that are becoming more and more disobedient.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" ([John 3:16-18](#)).

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" ([John 3:36](#)).

"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" ([John 8:24](#)).

**Hebrews 9:24-28** <sup>24</sup> For **Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself**, now to appear in the presence of God for us: <sup>25</sup> Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; <sup>26</sup> For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but **now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.** <sup>27</sup> And **as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:** <sup>28</sup> So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and **unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.**

**Revelation 20:11-15** <sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the **dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.** <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and **they were judged every man according to their works.** <sup>14</sup> And **death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.** This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**