The Cornerstone - I Peter 2:1-12

* + 1. (2-3) - All of us require food for our bodies, all of us required food and drink so we could grow into the adults that we are today. Christian life is not any different. For a Christian, our thirst for the Word of God should be unquenchable. Just like food we should not go a day without feeding ourselves with the Word of God. On the contrary side of things,
       1. The failure to either desire or to receive this pure milk of the word is the reason for so many problems in both individual Christian lives and in congregations.
          1. *J.B Meyer wrote “The sickly condition of so many Christians sets forth a lamentable complaint of the food with which they are supplied. To say nothing of strong meat, they do not even get milk. Hence the Church of God too much resembles the wards of a children’s hospital.” (Meyer)*
    2. (4-5) – We are a spiritual temple. We are to be as the first stone our cornerstone of Christ. We are able to be like Christ because of Christ’s indwelling in us. Our spiritual house is based on our foundation in Christ Jesus.
       1. Just as we are a spiritual temple, we are also called a royal priesthood. The believer is his own priest before God. He does not need any mediator except his great High Priest, Jesus.
          1. We offer our own sacrifices before the Lord through our time, talent, treasure, actions, and thoughts.
    3. (6-8) - If we are being built into a spiritual house, there is no doubt who our Chief Cornerstone is. Even though men rejected Jesus, He has become the Chief Cornerstone in the work of building the church.
       1. Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of Psalm 118, the stumbling stone of Isaiah 8, the foundation stone of Isaiah 28, the supernatural stone of Daniel 2, and the rock that miraculously gave Israel water in the wilderness (1 Corinthians 10:4).
       2. Charles Spurgeon wrote ““Is Jesus precious to your soul? Remember, on your answer to this question depends your condition. You believe, if he is precious to you, but if he is not precious, then you are not believers, and you are condemned already because you believe not on the Son of God.” (Spurgeon)
       3. (a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense) The Word of God is offensive to those who do not believe. It is a stumbling block. It will cause discomfort for the non-believer to hear. “And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.” (Matthew 21:44)
       4. *They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. –* This was predestined for people who reject God to stumble, it was predetermined who was elected and who was not.
    4. (9-10) – Israel was once the only ones who had priests before God, they were once the only elected before God, but no more. Because of Christ we, who are Christians, are all priests and elect before God. We now belong to God, special.