

“WORD OF LIFE”

February 23, 2025

47. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (27) – In the Parables of the New Testament

P - 17. The Stone Rejected by the Jewish Builders in the Parable of the Evil Husbandmen

Hymns: #199 / #233 / #30

✚ “So that what was spoken through the prophet [Psa. 78:2] might be fulfilled, saying,
‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world’.” (Matt 13:35)

[Parable – The transfer of the kingdom of God]

Matt. 21:42 - ... “The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner.
This was from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes”?

Matt. 21:44 - And he who falls on this stone shall be broken to pieces;
but on whomever it falls, it shall crush him to powder and scatter him like chaff.

✚ “...He taught them many things in parables... (Mark 4:2)
“...Why do You speak in parables to them? (Mat 13:10)
“...And His disciples came to Him, saying, Make the parable ... clear to us. (Matt. 13:36)

❖ Christ as life within us is the Stone for God’s building.

- Christ refers Himself as a stone for God’s building (Matt. 21:42).
 - This stone rejected by the builders is Christ for God’s building (Isa. 28:16; Zech. 3:9; 1 Pet. 2:4),
 - The builders are the Jewish leaders, who were supposed to work on God’s building.
 - The Lord Jesus as the stone rejected by the builders
 - is not only the foundation stone (Isa 28:16) and the topstone (Zech. 4:7)
 - but also the cornerstone, the stone that joins the walls (joining the Jews and the Gentiles).
 - As the cornerstone, Christ connects the Jews and the Gentiles.
 - The Jewish and Gentile believers are brought together as one building for God.
- Christ is a stone to three categories of people:
 - for the believers He is the building stone;
 - for the rejecting Jews He is the stumbling stone;
 - for the Gentiles He is the smiting stone.
- For God’s building we need to enjoy and experience Christ as the building stone
 - Christ is the “living stone” rejected by men but with God chosen and precious (1Pet. 2:4)

✚ “And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written,
“I believed, therefore I spoke,” we also believe, therefore we also speak,” (2Cor. 4:13)

✚ For us, Christ, the Son of God, the Savior, the Redeemer, the One who is our life, is God’s building stone. As the building stone, Christ is the building element, the building life. Ultimately, Christ as life within us is for God’s building.

✚ For God’s building we need to enjoy and experience Christ as the building stone, as the building life and element. Christ is the foundation stone that bears us up; He is also the cornerstone that holds us together; He is the topstone to be our covering. In Him and through Him we are built together.

✚ After receiving Him as the seed of life, we need to grow that we may experience Him as the stone living in us. Thus He will make us also living stones, transformed with His stone nature, that we may be built together with others as a spiritual house upon Him as both the foundation and the cornerstone (Isa. 28:16).

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 47 letter P – point 17)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}

<p style="text-align: center;">Hymn 199 Praise the Lord – His All-inclusiveness</p> <p>1 Thou art the Rock everlasting, Spiritual Rock cleft for me; Drinking of Thee as the Spirit, Thus I become one with Thee. Thou art the Rock never shaken, 'Tis on this Rock we are built; Joined unto Thee thru redemption, Nothing can shake us thru guilt.</p> <p>Chorus: Lord, how we treasure Thy value, All that Thou art is for us; While here in loving remembrance We share Thy wealth glorious.</p> <p>2 Thou art the Stone tried by many, Precious to God, dear to us, Thou art so sure and trustworthy, Thy strength is so marvelous. Thou art the Stone that is living, Chosen of God, made our own; So energetic and pow'rful, With endless life to us known.</p> <p>3 Thou art the Stone of Foundation Laid by our God, safe and sure; It is by this sure foundation Safety fore'er we secure. To us no other foundation Of any kind man can lay; Thou art the only foundation Which we have now and for aye.</p> <p>4 Lord, for God's spiritual building, Thou art the Chief Cornerstone; Both of the Jews and the Gentiles By Thee are built into one. Lord, Thou art also the Topstone, Brought forth in measureless grace; Thou art our cover and glory, Moving our hearts in Thy praise.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hymn 233 Praise the Lord – Remembrance of Him</p> <p>1 O what a miracle, my Lord, That I'm in Thee and Thou in me, That Thou and I are really one; O what a wondrous mystery!</p> <p>2 For me Thy body Thou didst give, That I may ever share in Thee; For me Thy precious blood was shed, That from my sins I might be free.</p> <p>3 By resurrection Thou didst change Thy form and as the Spirit come; Thou wouldst that I be filled with Thee That all Thy riches mine become.</p> <p>4 Now as the symbols we behold, Thy loving self we see anew; We thank Thee for Thy heart's desire As all Thy travail we review.</p> <p>5 We eat the bread and drink the wine, And to Thy sweetness we are led; In spirit each receiving Thee, Our spirits with Thyself are fed.</p> <p>6 We long to eat and drink e'en more, To take Thyself in spirit thus, Till Thou shalt all our being fill And true remembrance have from us.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hymn 30 Worship of the Father – His Love</p> <p>1 What love Thou hast bestowed on us, We thank Thee from our heart; Our Father, we would worship Thee And praise for all Thou art.</p> <p>2 Thy heart Thou hast revealed to us, Made known th' eternal will; Within the Son Thou hast come forth, Thy purpose to fulfill.</p> <p>3 Thou gavest Thy beloved Son In love to come and die, That we may be Thy many sons, As heirs with Him, made nigh.</p> <p>4 Through Him we have Thy very life And Thou our Father art; Thy very nature, all Thyself, Thou dost to us impart.</p> <p>5 Thy Spirit into ours has come That we may "Abba" cry; Of Spirit born, with Spirit sealed, To be transformed thereby.</p> <p>6 The many sons to glory brought Is Thine eternal goal, And to Thy Son's own image wrought, Thou wilt conform the whole.</p> <p>7 Throughout Thy transformation work Thou dost direct each one, From glory unto glory bring Until the work is done.</p> <p>8 What love Thou, Father, hast bestowed; We'll ever grateful be; We'll worship Thee forevermore And praise unceasingly.</p>
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