

Jesus Christ: a Stone of Stumbling

1 Pet. 2:1-8

Introduction:

- A. Jesus two stones in one.
 - 1. To obedient: "chief", "precious", "elect".
 - 2. To disobedient: "offense", "stumbling". (cf. 1 Cor. 1:22-24).
- B. Many stumbled at the word of Christ while on earth.
 - 1. At the claims to His Messiahship - Jewish leaders. (cf. Jno. 12:39).
 - 2. At the reports of His Miracles - Greek philosophers. (1 Cor. 1:23; 15:1).
 - 3. At the contents of His Message - (cf. Matt. 15:12-14; Acts 22:21,22).
- C. Many, today, stumble at the word when it violates their perverted senses.

Discussion:

- I. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Reason.**
 - A. Resurrection and other miracles. (cf. Acts 26:8).
 - B. Baptism for remission of sins. (cf. Naaman's washing - 1 Kings 5).
 - II. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Loyalty.**
 - A. To family. (cf. Mt. 10:37)
 - B. To nation. (Jews).
 - C. To traditions.
 - D. To friends and supporters.
 - III. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Values.**
 - A. Like young ruler. (Matt. 19:16-21).
 - B. Like seekers of loaves and fishes. (Jno. 6:26,27; cf. Matt. 6:33).
 - C. Like those who place physical needs first. (cf. Acts 6:2-4).
 - IV. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Dignity.**
 - A. Judgeship offended Israel's dignity - "Give us a king..."
 - B. Elisha's methods offended Naaman.
 - C. Pointed teachings of Jesus and apostles.
 - D. Simplicity of gospel system.
 - 1. It's lack of pomp and ceremony.
 - 2. It's lack of an "educated ministry".
 - V. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Taste.**
 - A. Have developed a taste for entertainment.
 - 1. Worship measured by this standard.
 - 2. Preaching measured by this standard.
 - B. Have taste for either formal or spontaneity.
 - VI. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Justice.**
 - A. Cf. Abraham offering Isaac.
 - B. "Hell" offends Jehovah's Witnesses
 - C. One church offends Protestants. cf. My brother.
 - D. Marriage-Divorce-Remarriage.
 - VII. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Pleasure.**
 - A. Worldliness: Dancing, reveling, immodesty.
 - B. Can't believe God deny us this pleasure.
- Conclusion: How do we cope with the word of stumbling?
- A. Some reject it - like Jews (Acts 22:22) or (Acts 17:32).
 - B. Some Repress it - Like rulers (Jno. 12:48); Agrippa & Felix.
 - C. Some redefine it - Like Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:28).
 - 1. To fit changing times.
 - 2. To fit circumstances.
 - D. Some reconsider it.
 - 1. Like Naaman.
 - 2. Makes us stronger. (Mt. 21:29; Jno. 1:3).