

A Rock of Offence

1 Pet. 2:4-10

Introduction:

- A. Jesus: Precious Stone versus Rock of Offence. (v. 6-8).
 - 1. Offensive to some who never became disciples. (Matt. 15:13,14).
 - 2. Offensive to some who quit being disciples. (John 6:26, 60-66).
- B. Jesus and His way precious to many but offensive to others.

Discussion:

I. *Foolish to Many.* (1 Cor. 1:18-20)

- A. Rejected as foolish by worldly wise. (1 Cor. 2:14).
 - 1. Gospel story.
 - 2. Plan of salvation.
 - 3. Life-style.
- B. Received as wisdom of God by spiritually minded.
 - 1. Evidence clear enough to open mind.
 - 2. Know it is designed to glorify God, not human wisdom. (1: 26-31).

II. *Weak to Many.* (1 Cor. 1:27).

- A. A weak kingdom by carnal standards.
 - 1. Politically, socially and financially.
 - 2. Militarily. (John 18:36).
 - 3. Numerically. (Matt. 7:13,14).
- B. A strong kingdom by Lord's standard. (Dan. 2:44).

III. *Hard to Many.* (John 6:60-66).

- A. Hard for those unwilling to take yoke and learn. (cf. Matt. 11:28-30).
 - 1. Think requirements hard.
 - 2. Think restrictions hard.
- B. Easy and light for those who willingly take up yoke. (cf. 1 John 5:1-3).

IV. *Dull to Many.* (cf. Isa. 53:2).

- A. Dull if measured by world's religions.
 - 1. If measure worship by artistic or entertainment value rather than truth.
 - 2. If measure enthusiasm by emotionalism and promotionalism.
 - a. Worship should be sober reflection based on knowledge of God.
 - b. Worship not a pep rally. (cf. Rom. 12:1,2; 1 Cor. 14:15).
 - 3. If measured by organized activities - bulk of Christianity individual.

V. *Inadequate to Many.* (cf. John 6:26; Matt. 12:38,39).

- A. Inadequate for those who expect it to meet all earthly needs and problems.
 - 1. Does not meet all economic, social or political needs and problems.
 - 2. Does not usurp the role of God's other provisions - Home, state, etc.
- B. Adequate for those whose prime aim to go to heaven. (2 Cor. 4:17-5:2).

Conclusion:

- A. As God's chosen generation:
 - 1. Let's not try to be offensive, but not be afraid to be either.
 - 2. Let's not panic at every criticism.
 - 3. Let's not change things to pacify carnal minds.
- B. As God's people:

1. Let's understand that while offensive to many, precious to God.
2. Let's understand that God's way will eventually be vindicated.