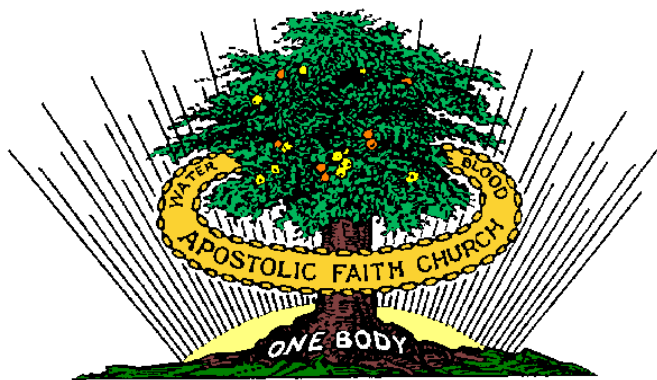


Apostolic Faith Church
66 Muscliffe Road,
Winton,
Bournemouth,
Dorset
BH9 1NW



Showers of Blessing

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The Foundation of Our Salvation and Faith

Acts 4:11 records Peter declaring, "*Jesus is the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.*" Paul, in **Ephesians 2:20**, teaches that Jesus is "*the chief cornerstone*" upon which the church is built. The message is clear: Jesus, though dismissed by the religious leaders, is the very essential **foundation of salvation and faith**.

The Opposition of the Lord Jesus by the Religious Elite

From the moment Jesus began His ministry, He faced opposition from the religious authorities. The Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes saw Him as a threat to their power and traditions. His teachings, which emphasized grace, humility, and direct access to God, challenged their legalism and hypocrisy.

Several factors contributed to Jesus' rejection:

1. **His Authority** – Jesus taught with unprecedented authority (Matthew 7:29). Unlike the scribes who relied on rabbinic traditions, Jesus spoke as the Son of God, challenging established interpretations of the Law.
2. **His Miracles and Popularity** – Jesus performed miracles that authenticated His divinity, but instead of embracing Him, the leaders accused Him of using demonic power (Matthew 12:24).
3. **His Association with Sinners** – Jesus dined with tax collectors, sinners, and the marginalized (Luke 5:30-32), which scandalized the religious elite who emphasized ritual purity.
4. His Claim to be the Son of God – Jesus openly declared His divine identity, culminating in His trial where He affirmed, "*You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power*" (Mark 14:62). This claim led to His crucifixion.

Despite this rejection, God exalted Jesus, making Him the cornerstone of salvation, according to prophesy in Scripture.

Jesus as the Cornerstone of Salvation and Faith

The cornerstone in ancient architecture was the most crucial stone in a building. It provided stability and alignment to the entire structure. In the spiritual sense, Jesus as the cornerstone means:

1. **He is the Sure Foundation of Faith** – Just as a building cannot stand without a solid foundation, faith in Christ is necessary for salvation (1 Corinthians 3:11).
2. **He Unites Believers** – Ephesians 2:20-22 describes how all believers of all backgrounds are joined together in Christ, "*in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: In all members are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*"
3. **He Provides Strength and Stability** – Those who build their lives on Christ will not be

shaken (Matthew 7:24-27). A life built on Jesus withstands trials and challenges.

4. He Determines the Structure – Just as a chief cornerstone dictates the direction and strength of a building, Jesus shapes the identity and purpose of the church.

The Cost of Rejecting the Cornerstone

The Bible warns that those who reject Christ will stumble and fall. 1 Peter 2:7-8 states: "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone... A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense." Jesus, instead of being a foundation for salvation, becomes a stumbling block for those who refuse to believe.

The religious leaders who rejected Jesus faced judgment. In Matthew 21:43, Jesus warns, "*The kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people producing its fruit.*" This was a prophetic utterance which prepared for the inclusion of the Gentiles in God's redemptive plan.

Demonstrating Jesus Christ as the Chief Cornerstone and Foundation in Our Lives

Recognising the Lord Jesus as the cornerstone and foundation in our lives has profound implications for how as Christians we should live our life of faith and victory. As a believer, you are called to apply this truth by:

1. **Building Your Life on Christ** – Prioritize Jesus in every aspect of life. Faith, decisions, and your moral values and life principles must be aligned with the Word of God as Christ teaches.
2. **Trust in His Strength** – When facing trials, when the strong winds and the storms of life surge against you, remember that Jesus provides stability and endurance, the solid rock and sure foundation.
3. **Be Part of His Church** – As living stones in God's spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5), believers should actively participate in the church, which is built on Christ, fitly joined and framed together for an holy temple and habitation of God (Ephesians 2:20-22).
4. **Proclaim the Gospel** – Share the message of the Lord Jesus with those who have yet to believe. Support the propagation of the Gospel of Christ, the chief cornerstone, the sure foundation. Be a part of the Church programs for reaching out through evangelism and mission work. Be a blessing through your time, through giving, through support towards the expansion and growth of the Kingdom.

By Rev. J. Sande – Deputy ICO.

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Greetings message received from Zambia:

Rev. Israel Kalwaku, the Country Overseer Zambia writes: To the International Chief Overseer, Our Mother Mrs Jean Lee & the beloved at the Root and the entire Church. The Church in Zambia would like to take this rare privilege and opportunity to say our special greetings, blessings and victory in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue what God has in stock for us in this year. It's our prayer that as we soldier on in this year, joy, happiness and good health shall be our portion. We specifically upold you our ICO and Mrs Lee and pray that your spirit man continues to be strengthened, vitalized and renewed in Christ Jesus. You will always remain our symbol and example of dedication and perseverance through your labour in the Lord for many years at the Root and overseas. We love you and may God richly bless you always. Hebrews 6:10 " For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed towards His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister". With much love and prayers. AFC, Zambia

