

- The church is built upon a solid foundation
  - Ephesians 2:19-22
- Cornerstone:
  - Jesus Christ Himself
- Foundation:
  - Teaching of the apostles and prophets

# Matthew 16:16-18: “Upon this Rock”

- The Christ, the Son of God – who and what He is – is the rock upon which the church is built
- Catholicism says the rock is Peter
- Logically:
  - If the rock is Peter, the church is founded upon man with all his weakness
  - Peter was just a man who did not always walk uprightly (Matthew 14:22-23, 26:69-75; Galatians 2:11-14)
- Historically:
  - The argument that Peter is the rock came later with apostates
  - Tertullian in A.D. 198
  - Catholic theological arguments were perfected around A.D. 440-461
- Contextually:
  - The argument that Peter is the rock violates the context of Matthew 16:18, for the question is not Peter’s identity but Jesus’ identity
- Let us examine further Biblically...

This lesson based on material by L.A.Stauffer in The Church: A Biblical Perspective, Lesson 4

# The sure foundation in prophecy

- The stone
  - Isaiah 28:16
  - Peter applies this prophecy to Jesus
    - 1 Peter 2:4-8
  - Isaiah 8:14 combined with Isaiah 28:16 applied to Jesus by Paul
    - Romans 9:33, 10:11
- Zion
  - Not a literal hill in Jerusalem, but the holy hill in heavenly places where God dwells and His King rules
    - Psalm 2:6-7
    - Psalm 110:1-2
    - Hebrews 1:5, 13
      - Acts 2:34-35
    - Hebrews 12:22-23

# Jesus, the tried stone – Isaiah 28:16

- Attested by God
  - Acts 2:22
- Character tested
  - Hebrews 4:15
  - John 8:46
  - 1 Peter 2:22
- Will tested
  - Hebrews 10:7, 10
  - John 4:34
  - Philippians 2:8
  - Matthew 26:36-44
- Claim tested
  - John 20:30-31
  - Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:25-32

# The Stone Rejected by Men but Proven by God

- Psalm 118:22
- Matthew 21:33-46
- Acts 4:11
- 1 Peter 2:4
- Romans 1:4
- Revelation 1:17-18

# 1 Corinthians 3:10-11: No Other Foundation

- Some were removing themselves from the sure foundation
  - 1 Corinthians 1:12-13
  - Carnal, and walking after the manner of men
    - 1 Corinthians 3:3
  - Yet Paul & Apollos merely ministers
    - 1 Corinthians 3:5
  - 1 Corinthians 4:6
- The foundation Paul had laid
  - 1 Corinthians 3:11
  - Acts 18:5
    - Cf. Matthew 16:16-18

# Living Stones Must be built upon the sure foundation

- 1 Peter 2:4-8
- 1 Corinthians 3:9
- “But I say unto you”
  - Matthew 5:21, 22, 27, 28
  - Matthew 7:24-26
  - Matthew 7:29
- Matthew 17:5

# Review Questions

- What is the rock upon which the church is built?
- How does the Catholic view of the rock fail logically, historically, contextually, and biblically?
- Who is the stone of Isaiah 28:16, and how do you know?
- What is meant by Zion in Isaiah 28:16?
- In what ways is Jesus the tried stone?
- Explain how Jesus is the rejected stone.
- How was Jesus proven to be who He claimed?
- What foundation did Paul lay in Corinth?
  - How were the Corinthians removing themselves from the sure foundation?
  - How did Paul respond to their problem?
- How do we build upon Christ?