

- 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?