

## A Rock of Offense

1 Pet. 2:4-10

Introduction:

A. Jesus: Precious Stone versus Rock of Offense. (v. 6-8).

1. Offensive to some who never became disciples. (Matt. 15:12-14).

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 Cor 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.