Jesus Christ: A Rock of Offense (originally Stone of Stumbling by Ed Bragwell Sr.)

1 Pet. 2:1-8

Introduction:
A. Jesus two stones in one.
   1. To obedient: "chief", "precious", "elect".
   2. To disobedient: "offense", "stumbling". (cf. 1 Cor. 1:22-24).
B. Many stumbled at the word of Christ while on earth.
   1. At the claims to His Messiahship - Jewish leaders. (cf. Jn. 12:39)
   2. At the reports of His Miracles - Jews & Greek philosophers. (John 12:37; 1 Cor. 1:23; 15:1).
C. Many, today, stumble at the word when it violates their perverted senses.

Discussion:
I. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Reason.
   B. Baptism for remission of sins. (cf. Naaman's washing - 1 Kings 5).
II. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Loyalty.
   A. To family. (cf. Mt. 10:37)
   B. To nation. (Jews).
   C. To traditions.
   D. To friends and supporters.
III. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Values.
   A. Like young ruler. (Matt. 19:16-21).
   B. Like seekers of loaves and fishes. (Jn. 6:26,27; cf. Matt. 6:33).
IV. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Dignity.
   A. Judgeship offended Israel's dignity - "Give us a king..." 1Sam 8.6
   B. Elisha's methods offended Naaman. (1 Kings 5 again)
   C. Pointed teachings of Jesus and apostles.
   D. Simplicity of gospel system.
      1. It's lack of pomp and ceremony.
      2. It's lack of an "educated ministry".
V. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Taste.
   A. Have developed a taste for entertainment.
      1. Worship measured by this standard.
      2. Preaching measured by this standard.
   B. Have taste for either formality or spontaneity.
VI. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Justice.
   A. Cf. Abraham offering Isaac.
   B. "Hell" offends Jehovah's Witnesses
   C. One church offends Protestants. cf. My brother.
   D. Marriage-Divorce-Remarriage.
VII. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Pleasure.
   A. Worldliness: Dancing, reveling, immodesty (1 Jn 2.15-17)
   B. Can't believe God would deny us this pleasure.

Conclusion: How do we cope with the word of stumbling?
B. Some Repress it - Like rulers (Jn. 12:48); Agrippa & Felix.
C. Some redefine it - Like Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:28).
   1. To fit changing times.
   2. To fit circumstances.
D. Some reconsider it.
   1. Like Naaman.
   2. Makes us stronger. (Mt. 21:29; 1 Jn. 1:3).