

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).
3. At the contents of His Message - (cf. Matt. 15:12-14; Acts 22:21,22).

C. Many, today, stumble at the word when it violates their perverted senses.

Discussion:

I. It May Offend One's Perverted Sense of Reason.

- A. Resurrection and other miracles. (cf. Acts 26:8).
- 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).
- C. Like those who place physical needs first. (cf. Acts 6:2-4).

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?

A. Some reject it - like Jews (Acts 22:22) or Greeks (Acts 17:32).

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).