



“Built on the foundation”; “the chief cornerstone”. We remember Paul, writing to the Corinthians, (the Epistle last week) said that there is only one foundation that can be laid – the foundation of Jesus Christ.

To the Ephesians he speaks of Jesus as the **Cornerstone**. It takes us back to foundations.

The first and most important stone to be laid is the “**Cornerstone**”, sometimes known as the “Foundation Stone”.

It is the “Datum Stone” upon which all other bricks/stones are laid and ensures that the construction is built true.

Here then, to the Ephesians, Paul describes Jesus as “**The Cornerstone**”, - the guide for all further building.

A “Hillsong, Australia” song expresses it this way:

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus’ name.

*Christ alone, Cornerstone,  
Weak made strong, in the Saviour’s love.  
Through the storm He is Lord  
Lord of all*

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil,  
My anchor holds within the veil.

When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found;  
Dressed in His righteousness alone,  
Faultless, stand before the throne.

There is another “building” image of Jesus that can be used to express his centrality in our faith. For an Easter service a few years ago I used a PowerPoint presentation which showed an Arch on a sandy beach. The Arch was made from Smooth, Rounded, Boulders. No way was this good building material! But the arch stood because of the final stone at the top of the arch – the “Cap Stone” or “Keystone”.

We have three useful images of Jesus:

The Foundation of our Faith

The “Cornerstone”, upon which all future building depends

The “Keystone” or “Capstone” without which a curved structure falls.

All emphasise the centrality of Jesus in our Christian life and experience.

Returning to that time when the “exiles” return to Jerusalem.

They have been brought back by Jerubbabel – the Governor to be. The first exhortation to rebuild the Temple comes from the prophet Haggai. The second, (months later), comes from the prophet Zechariah in the passage quoted from Zechariah 4 at the beginning of these thoughts.

In that short passage, the Lord – speaking first through the angel, then through Zechariah – says:

**“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit”**

Let us make that our text and reflect on its meaning and importance for us:

This week. This month. This Year. For Life.

Eric Brown