

Peter and John Arrested

Acts 4:1-31

March 6, 2022

Do all things really work together for those who love God and His purpose? (vs. 1-4)

Romans 8:28 tells us that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. If we know God, this promise applies to us.

ALL things, all, 100%, 10/10, all of them work together for God's purpose.

Joseph

Job

Joshua

Ruth

Paul

Peter and John were arrested for doing good for speaking Truth!

You can best be assured that IF we follow Jesus and His Word we will be ridiculed, laughed at, mocked and possibly even in our lifetime censored or arrested for standing on Truth.

If our life was meant to be void of struggles and persecution, then the Lord must have really hated Paul!

Do we reject or accept the Cornerstone? (vs. 5-12)

Since ancient times, builders have used cornerstones in their construction projects. A cornerstone was the principal stone, usually placed at the corner of an edifice, to guide the workers in their course. The cornerstone was usually one of the largest, the most solid, and the most carefully constructed of any in the edifice. The Bible describes Jesus as the cornerstone that His church would be built upon. He is foundational. Once the cornerstone was set, it became the basis for determining every measurement in the remaining construction; everything was aligned to it. As the cornerstone of the building of the church, Jesus is our standard of measure and alignment.

The book of Isaiah has many references to the Messiah to come. In several places the Messiah is referred to as "the cornerstone," such as in this prophecy: "So this is what the sovereign Lord says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line'" (Isaiah 28:16–17). In context, God speaks to the scoffers and boasters of Judah, and He promises to send the cornerstone—His precious Son—who will provide the firm foundation for their lives, if they would but trust in Him.

In the New Testament, the cornerstone metaphor is continued. The apostle Paul desires for the Ephesian Christians to know Christ better: "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:19–21). Furthermore, in 1 Peter 2:6, what Isaiah said centuries before is affirmed in exactly the same words.

Peter says that Jesus, as our cornerstone, is "chosen by God and precious to him" (1 Peter 2:4). The Cornerstone is also reliable, and "the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame" (verse 6).

Unfortunately, not everyone aligns with the Cornerstone. Some accept Christ; some reject Him. Jesus is the

“stone the builders rejected” (Mark 12:10; cf. Psalm 118:22). When news of the Messiah’s arrival came to the magi in the East, they determined to bring Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. But when that same news came to King Herod in Jerusalem, his response was to attempt to kill Him. From the very beginning, Jesus was “a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall” (1 Peter 2:8).

How can people reject God’s chosen, precious cornerstone? Simply put, they want to build something different from what God is building. Just as the people building the tower of Babel rebelled against God and pursued their own project, those who reject Christ disregard God’s plan in favor of their own. Judgment is promised to all those who reject Christ: “Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed” (Matthew 21:44).¹

Because Jesus is our Cornerstone, salvation is found in no other name than that of Jesus!

Do others see that we have been with Jesus? (vs. 13-22)

Uneducated

Untrained – Holy Spirit

Boldness

Been with Jesus

Could not be denied

They couldn’t help but speak of that which had changed them. Formal education has its importance, but nothing beats meeting with the Lord, day after day!

As we have said many times, it’s hard to argue with a personal testimony!

Do we pray for boldness or for the “bad” or “tough times” to go away? (vs. 27-31)

They prayed for boldness!

They were arrested and eventually let go because there was nothing to charge them with at this point. Upon being let go they said they would keep speaking of the name of Jesus and would not be silent, even though those “in charge” told them otherwise. Upon hearing this they didn’t fuss, start a Go Fund Me, scream “religious liberty,” file a complaint, whine or quit. So what did they do? Acts 4:29 tells us they prayed for boldness in light of the threats and God gave it to them. Sometimes we want out of our hardships and want to “make our case” when God simply wants us to pray for boldness, and He will give it.

Prayer Focus:

- **I would trust God and His plan.**
- **I would accept and build my life upon the Cornerstone.**
- **Others would know I have been with Jesus.**
- **I would pray for boldness.**

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-Christ-cornerstone.html>