

Life Group Bible Study  
Jesus the Cornerstone  
Week of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Written by Wayne Arcand

Gerry Loughheed Jr.'s message was based on Luke 20:9-19. In the parable of Luke 20:9-19, Jesus tells of a landowner who rented his vineyard to some farmers. When the landowner sent his servants to collect the rent, some of the fruit of the vineyard, the servant was ignored, beaten and sent away. Finally, after his servants had been ignored and beaten three times, he sent his son expecting him to be respected. The tenants killed the son, thinking they would then inherit the vineyard. *"What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them?"* <sup>16</sup> *He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others."* And in verse 17 Jesus asked, *"Then what is the meaning of that which is written: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?"*

In this week's Life Group study we will explore the concept of Jesus, the Cornerstone of our faith. What is a cornerstone? The cornerstone is the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation. All other stones were set in reference to this stone. This determined the position of the entire structure.

*Romans 9: <sup>30</sup> What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; <sup>31</sup> but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. <sup>32</sup> Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. <sup>33</sup> As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame."*

1. What is the difference between the righteousness the people of Israel were pursuing and the righteousness the Gentiles obtained?
  - a. Discuss what it means to have a "righteousness that is by faith"? See Ephesians 2:1-9.
2. Last week we studied the gifts of the Spirit, which every believer receives at the point of salvation, and spiritual fruit which is the character of Jesus growing and maturing in the believer. In our study, we learned that if we do not have love, we are nothing. Jesus is love. As a child of God we are to exemplify that love and love is shown not only in what we say but also in what we do. Consider *Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*
  - a. Discuss the three ideas expressed in this verse.
  - b. What is our purpose?
3. How does God equip his people to carry out His purpose?
  - a. *Ephesians 4:<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.*
  - b. Who did Christ give himself? Discuss what it means to you to be equipped "for works of service".

c. Discuss what it means to build up the body of Christ. See 1 Corinthians 12.

4. *Ephesians 2: <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

- a. Those who were far away is a reference to the Gentiles because they knew little or nothing about God. Those who were near references the Jews because they had knowledge of God through their scriptures.
  - i. Discuss how these verses point toward the principle of unity in the Body of Christ.
  - ii. Is there one phrase that this principle is anchored in?
  - iii. Discuss what causes lack of unity in the Body of Christ and what we can do as individuals to promote unity.

For Reflection:

Is your life built on the shifting base of your success and dreams, or is it built on the firm foundation of Jesus, the Cornerstone of our faith? 1 Peter 4:10 tells us, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Serving others is something each of us is called to do. It is not waiting for someone to serve me, but for me to serve others. Who can you reach out to in your church family this. I encourage you to be that word of love and encouragement. Make someone's day!