

1 Peter 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

Analysis

Peter addresses believers directly: "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious" (hymin oun hē timē tois pisteuousin)—literally "to you who believe is the honor/value." Christ's preciousness belongs to believers who recognize His worth. The contrast follows: "but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner" (apeithous in de lithos hon apedokimasan hoi oikodomountes, houtos egenēthē eis kephalēn gōnias). Peter quotes Psalm 118:22—rejected stone became chief cornerstone. Disobedient builders (Jewish leaders) rejected Christ, yet God exalted Him. The irony: what humans rejected, God made supreme.

Historical Context

The Psalm 118:22 quotation was Jesus's favorite self-description (Matthew 21:42). Religious leaders indeed rejected Jesus, but resurrection vindicated God's choice. For Peter's readers (many rejected by family/society for faith), this provided comfort: human rejection doesn't nullify God's approval. The contrast between believers finding Christ precious and unbelievers stumbling over Him runs throughout Scripture (1 Corinthians 1:23—Christ is stumbling block to some, wisdom to others).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How is Christ's 'preciousness' evident in your priorities, affections, and daily choices?
2. What does it mean that the same Christ who is precious to believers causes others to stumble?

Interlinear Text

ὑμῖν	οὖν	οἱ	τιμὴ	οἱ	πιστεύουσιν		
Unto you	therefore	which	he is precious	which	believe		
G5213	G3767	G3588	G5092	G3588	G4100		
ἀπειθοῦσιν			δὲ	Λίθον	ὃν	ἀπεδοκίμασαν	οἱ
unto them which be disobedient			but	the stone	which	disallowed	which
G544			G1161	G3037	G3739	G593	G3588
οἰκοδομοῦντες	οὗτος	ἐγενήθη	εἰς	κεφαλὴν	γωνίας		
the builders	the same	is made	G1519	the head	of the corner		
G3618	G3778	G1096		G2776	G1137		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 21:42 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

1 Peter 2:8 (Parallel theme): And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

1 Peter 1:8 (Faith): Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

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