

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 ὅν 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 the head of the corner
G3618 G3778 G1096 G1519 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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