

# CORNERSTONE\*

*According to Scriptural imagery, Jesus is the Cornerstone of the Church—and our redeemed lives.*

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
<b>Psalm 118:19–29</b> <b>Mark 12:1–12</b> <b>Romans 9:30–33; cf. Isaiah 28:16</b> <b>1 Corinthians 3:9–23</b> <b>Ephesians 2</b> Ephesians 2:19–22 <b>2 Timothy 2:1–19</b> <b>1 Peter 2:1–10</b> 1 Peter 2:4–10 (Corporate)	A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Chosen as His Children <b>Christ, Our Rock, Our Cornerstone (Larson) SATB</b> In Christ Alone My Faith Has Found a Resting Place <b>My Soul Finds Rest (Courtney) SATB</b> O Church, Arise <b>O Church, Arise (arr. Hudson) SATB</b> <b>On Christ I Stand (Harlan) SATB</b> Rock of Ages <b>Rock of Ages (Lopez) SATB</b> Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted The Church's One Foundation The Solid Rock



**NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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\* Theme corresponds to NWVBC's [Special Day], [description of annual sequence/formula].

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## ARCH'S CAPSTONE

*Show pictures of an arch and explain what the cornerstone/capstone of the arch is. Jesus is both the foundation and the cornerstone/capstone of the church. He holds all of us together and is the focal point of our worship. Church is not a “club.”*

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

## CORNERSTONE OF A BUILDING

*Give the historical significance of what the cornerstone of a building was and the purpose that it served: to unite two walls and ensure the rest of the construction was level and structurally sound. Some cultures would sacrifice on the cornerstone, acknowledging its importance. The cornerstone was the most important part of the building. Jesus is called the Cornerstone of the church (1 Peter 2:6), and He must be the most important part of the church. Church must be first and foremost about Jesus Christ, not about the music, the fellowship, the preacher, or any other aspect. He is also the foundation stone of our life individually. “All other ground is sinking sand.”*

**Promotional Post:** Join us Sunday morning to worship Jesus, called often in Scripture our “Cornerstone.” As we worship, we can renew our commitment to build our lives, and our church, on Jesus Christ. Read these Bible passages on your own or with your family to prepare: [Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

The reference in Scripture to Christ as the Cornerstone is clear. It begins prophetically in Psalm 118 and Isaiah 28. Jesus specifically applies the imagery to Himself in three of the four gospels. And Peter mentions it both at the beginning of the church age and later in his first epistle.

Why is Christ called the cornerstone? The cornerstone was the most important part of the building because it gave it stability. While there is some debate as to whether the cornerstone was a foundation stone or a final capstone, there is no doubt that the imagery is intended to convey that without it, you do not have a successful or stable building.

Jesus is called the cornerstone, first in direct relationship to salvation, and then, specifically as applied to the church. Christ must be the most important part of the church. If a church has good music, fellowship, engaging preaching, but is not stabilized by her devotion to her Savior and the things He loves, then her time is spent in vain. But when a church begins with Christ and His gospel, her worship, fellowship, and biblical instruction are pleasing to the Lord. The

apostle Peter, quoting and applying the prophet Isaiah, could not have emphasized this distinction more clearly:

1 Peter 2:6-7 – Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded [ashamed]. 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.

May Christ truly be our Cornerstone as we corporately worship Him this morning and as we minister for Him throughout this week. (James Tilson)

## HOUSE ON A ROCK

*Jesus spoke a parable about a man building a house on the rock and another man on the sand. The results of a weak foundation were obviously vivid. “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:19,20). Today we confidently rest on Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone.*

## LIVING STONE

*Peter calls Jesus a “living stone,” and we are living stones because of Him. Fellowship with Him is the first step of holiness. People sometimes want to call themselves “Christians” and have the benefit of fellowship within the church, but they don’t have a true relationship with Christ. If the church is full of people with no life, then the church itself has no life (a “dead” building). An illustration of this concept is a car with no engine. It may look beautiful on the outside, have every available feature, etc. But if it has no engine, it is no good as a car – it has no life.*

**Promotional Post:** [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]