

## XVI.—THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE

By J. A. Huffman, D. D.

The sacred writers of the New Testament, imitating Jesus, themselves employed varied and familiar imagery with which to represent the truth.

One of the favorite pictures employed by the apostle Paul is that of a building. With this imagery he constructs the church of Jesus Christ. In I. Corinthians 3:16-19, Paul speaks of the individual Christian as a temple, and makes particular reference to the Christian's body as the temple of the Holy Spirit.

In Ephesians 2:22 the imagery is carried further, where the group of believers are declared to constitute the building. "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit," is the way the picture is sketched.

In the previous verse (21) Paul changes the imagery from that of a building purely, and combines it with that of an organism. Having framed the several individual buildings into one, he declares that it "groweth" into a holy temple in the Lord. By the mixture of these two images, that of a building which does not grow, with that of an organism which does grow, Paul does not mean to invalidate his imagery of the building. Indeed, a building may grow by additions from without, but not, like an organism, by increase from within.

But it is in the further preceding verse, that of Ephesians 2:20, that we find our most picturesque and significant statement. Having just spoken of the church as "the household of God," he adds: "Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

Expositors are not agreed upon the "prophets" referred to here. Some understand Jesus to be referring to such as were called "prophets" in New Testament times, other than the apostles. There were such, as will be found in such passages as Acts 11:37; 13:1; 15:32; 21:10. But the greater likelihood is that reference is made here to the Old Testament prophets, so very often referred to in the New Testament. In this way the Old Testament prophets are discovered to compose a part of the foundation of the New Testament church, doubtless forming the underpinning, or lower courses. This truth brings the Old Testament into its proper relation to the New Testament.

By "apostles," primary reference is likely made to the apostolic twelve, though not exclusively, for there were at least three spoken of as "apostles" other than the twelve. They were Paul, Barnabas, and James, the brother of our Lord. These New Testament leaders are depicted as the foundation, constituting, if the imagery be pressed, the upper and more visible layers.

But the cornerstone! Christ is declared to be this; and, important as are all the other stones and courses, this cornerstone is infinitely more so.

The Greek word translated "cornerstone" is akrogoniaios, from akros, which means extreme or "outer measurement," and gonia, "corner." That Christ is made to be this is evidence that whatever the meaning of the word, its significance must be great.

In fancy or memory, observe that gathering, with a curious crowd watching as a few workmen place a stone into the corner of a foundation while others give orders and formally officiate. It is probably the cornerstone-laying of a building which we call a church. More is at stake in this event than may appear, at

least if it truly sustains the relation to the building that Christ does to His church.

In the first place, a cornerstone suggests location. Of all stones in the foundation, this one must be located with absolute certainty. There should be no violation of property lines, anywhere, but certainly not here.

The cornerstone determines direction. Whether the building be true to the compass in its angles will be determined by the cornerstone. The translators are justified in this translation "cornerstone," for akros makes this stone "chief," differentiating it from all other stones, the location and direction of all of the rest of the stones of the foundations necessarily harmonizing with this chief stone.

It is also from the cornerstone that all measurements are made. Length, breadth, depth, and height are all related to this chief stone, and no deviation is permissible in a building which is properly proportioned.

Finally, it is the cornerstone which gives to a building its perpendicular. Does it stand erect? Is it plumb? These are legitimate questions. The plumbing must touch the cornerstone to answer these necessary questions.

So is Christ, the "cornerstone" of His church. More beautiful epithets of picturesque characterizations of Christ may be found but scarcely more meaningful.

But that Christ should be depicted as the "chief cornerstone" of the New Testament church is no surprise to one who is familiar with Old Testament prophecy. Isaiah, more than seven hundred years before Jesus was born, wrote: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste" (Isa. 28:16).

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## THE MENACE OF RUSSIA

Said General Charles de Gaulle recently, according to the London Times: "At the present time Russia dominates two-thirds of the European continent. I do not affirm that it is the determination of the present masters of this colossal agglomeration to proceed in the near future to a violent conquest of the world. But the fact remains for the moment that we see being formed in Europe the latent elements of a hegemony which could become as perilous as any that has arisen since the dawn of history, leading to a gigantic conflict from which no nation and no individual on the globe can escape."

The rift between East and West is steadily widening. Latest reports are that Russia's satellite nations in Europe actually have organized their efforts for an open fight against the Marshall Plan of America aid to Europe. So vast is this anti-God power, it is little wonder that it is singled out for the word of Jehovah, "I am against thee, O Rosh!"—Ezek. 38:3, R. V.)—Pentecostal Evangel.

## WEDDINGS

Lambert—Beale

At the Reformed Baptist Church, North Head, August 3rd, Faith Beale, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beale, of North Head, was united in marriage to Herbert Lambert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Lambert, of North Head, by Rev. J. A. Owens.

## OBITUARY



Rev. George A. Rogers  
1899—1948

The funeral service for the late Rev. G. A. Rogers was held from the Woodstock Reformed Baptist Church, Tuesday, August 24th. The large auditorium was filled to capacity and twenty-five ordained ministers of the denomination which Bro. Rogers served filled the platform and choir loft.

The service was in charge of Rev. H. C. Mullen. Brief tributes were paid Bro. Rogers by Rev. B. C. Cochrane, who spoke in behalf of the Reformed Baptist Alliance, Rev. H. R. Ingersoll, of the Faculty of Bethany Bible College, Lic. Walter Fernley, president of the Student Council of Bethany, and Rev. Wilbur Mullen, who was with Bro. Rogers during the last days and hours of his illness. All spoke with highest esteem of the sterling character and faithful service of the deceased. Prayer was offered by Rev. L. T. Sabine and solos were sung by Lics. Bruce Bridgeo and Burrell Kimball. The sermon was preached by Rev. H. S. Dow from the appropriate text: "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and faith: and much people were added to the Lord." Acts 11:24. Said the speaker: "Brother Rogers was a godly and consecrated man. He had no side lines, but was fully devoted to the work of God." Rev. H. C. Mullen, who conducted the service, also spoke most highly of Bro. Rogers. He referred to him as one of his best and truest friends whose memory would ever be precious.

Interment was made in the family lot at Meductic, N. B., with the committal service in charge of Revs. H. C. Mullen and H. S. Dow.

To the bereaved loved one, the wife, father, brother and sisters, the Highway extends heartfelt sympathy.

## THE NEW JERUSALEM

"12,000 furlongs, or 1,500 miles cubic"  
(Revelation 21:16)

There are 3,375,000,000 cubic miles in the New Jerusalem; or in other words, space for as many rooms of that dimension; i. e., one cubic mile. Were the City thus divided into rooms, and you should have begun at the creation of Adam to go through it, spending one hour in each room, and continue without stopping for the full twenty-four hours of each day, at the end of 6,000 years you would have visited only 52,570,560 rooms, and you would have yet to visit sixty-three and one-fifth times as many rooms as you had already visited; that is, a remainder of 3,322,529,440 rooms, which would, at that rate, require that you go on visiting 385,000 more years before having seen all the Holy City. By that time, the first part would be new to you again. — Church Herald.