I. **FIRST, JESUS IS THE ONLY RELIABLE CORNERSTONE—2:4.**

   A. Jesus is a stone according to Peter.

   B. Peter knew something about stones because his name means “rock”.
      2. Jesus wasn’t calling Peter the rock, but rather his confession about Jesus.
      3. It is Jesus who is the rock of our salvation, not Peter or any other man.

   C. What kind of cornerstone is Peter saying that Jesus is?
      1. Jesus is a “living” stone referring to his resurrection from the dead.
      2. Jesus is a “rejected” not only by Israel but by all who fail to confess him as Lord.
      3. Jesus is a “chosen” stone.
         a. Chosen by God.
         b. Chosen by all who confess him as Lord—“as you come to him”
      4. Jesus is a “precious” stone.
      5. Jesus is a “lone” stone—2:6.

II. **SECOND, WE ARE THE BRICKS—2:5.**

   A. Peter says every Christian is a stone, a living stone.
      1. Living in the sense that we are like our cornerstone, Jesus.
      2. Living also in the sense we have been given the promise of life after death.
B. Individually we are a temple, the *temple* of the Holy Spirit living in us.

C. Collectively we comprise the *church*, the body of Christ on earth.

III. **THIRD, THE CORNERSTONE HAS PROFOUND IMPACT—2:7-8.**

A. Jesus has profound impact on those who *accept* him—7a-- *Now to you who believe, this stone is precious*...

B. Jesus also has profound impact on those who *reject* him—7b-8a-- *But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8 and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”* (Quote from Psa. 118:22).

1. Jesus was rejected by the “*builders*” referring to the nation of Israel—1 Cor. 1:23.

2. Jesus’ rejection was predicted—8b--. *They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.*