

## BUILT 2 BLESS #5

Focused Living Ministries

*“Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God.” Col 1:15*

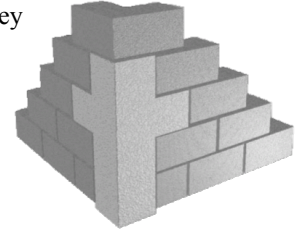
As the Old West was being settled, thousands of pioneers camped along the Oregon trail on the eastern slope of the Rockies. To cross a wide stream which cut through one camp they placed a big, ugly bolder in the middle so they could step across without getting wet. Eventually they built a bridge so a settler used this jagged, ugly rock as part of his fire pit, then as a backstop for target practice and finally as a sturdy prop for one corner of his sagging shed. Another generation passed until one day a young geologist saw the stone for what it really was.... not an ugly bolder, convenient step, shooter’s backstop, fire pit boarder or handy prop. It turned out to be the largest gold nugget ever discovered in the Rockies! So it is with Christ. For centuries folks have considered Him as a jagged, ugly rock, merely a good man, great moral teacher, influential leader or one of many prophets. But Paul invites the men of Colossae to build their lives upon the foundation of the supremacy of Christ as the preeminent Creator God and Ruler of the universe! This same Jesus whom countless cultures have treated as a worthless rock or dispensable decoration is really the chief

...the only One worthy, true, wise and solid enough to build our lives upon as well as the Church (I Peter 2:6-7; Matt 21:42; Ps 118:22; Eph 2:19-21; Isaiah 28:16; Acts 4:11; Rom 9:33; Matt 16:13-18. “Pinnah” = lit. corner or pinnacle)! **Honestly, who or what is at the ‘pinnacle’ of your life? Who do unbelievers around you say Christ is to them? Who is Christ to you? Does your life show it? Why is this a key theme throughout the Bible? Is it the theme of your life?**

**COLOSSIANS 1:15-23** The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is the most worthy object of our worship in all creation... period. There is not even a close second in the entire universe, and that is BEFORE we even consider His miraculous virgin birth, compassionate redemptive work at the cross or the power of His irrefutable resurrection! In **TAG Teams** list the ways Paul describes Christ as our priceless cornerstone (15-20). What should be your response to Him (21-23; 10 “worthy”/axio)? How do these descriptions qualify Christ as the only worthy foundation of your life?



Check out how others have responded when they finally understood Who this Jesus really is? How will these responses better **build** your life on the foundation of Christ as Chief Cornerstone and how will this be a **blessing** to others?



Matt 2:11

Matt 14:33

Matt 28:16-17

Mark 4:41

Mark 9:6-7

Mark 9:24

Luke 5:8-11

Luke 9:42-43

Luke 10:38-42

John 9:38

John 20:26-28

Rev 5:9-14

**TAG TEAM DISCUSSION** To what degree is your life really built on the cornerstone of Christ? What has been your honest response to Jesus as the Christ this past week?

**INDESCRIBABLE** (Louie Giglio) We have seen a tiny glimpse into God's grandeur when we stare into the universe. Stars, nebulae, pulsars and galaxies all beautifully and intricately created by Him. How can it be that our Creator God would stoop down, take the form of a man, and die a humiliating death on a cross? Could the One who made the stars also offer me His grace, love mercy and forgiveness?

1. What are some specific things in God's created universe that amaze you? What do you learn from them about God?
2. Read Hebrews 1:1-3. How could it be that Jesus is a better reflection of God's glory than all the stars in the universe?
3. Jesus provided the way for our sins to be cleansed (Heb 1:3) by offering Himself as a sacrifice on the cross. What emotions surface when you think about the One whom all things were created through offering Himself as a sacrifice?
4. When did you first come to know about the grace offered by God? How was it communicated to you?
5. God's grace is big enough to cover all sins. How does the bigness of God's grace compare with the bigness of His creation? Are both equally amazing?
6. Having a new glimpse of Christ's magnificent glory, is there anything too big in your life which He cannot accomplish, forgive, remove, provide for, take care of, heal, give grace to endure?
7. How can a better appreciation of the bigness of God's grace change the way you interact with God and others?
8. Take time to view the pictures from the Hubble telescope. How amazing is Christ's sacrifice for us, knowing that all that these things were created through Him, and yet He died on a cross for our sins?

<http://hubblesite.org/gallery/album/>

9. Who in your life needs to know about the grace offered by God through Jesus? How will you tell them about it?



**THE "I AM'S" OF CHRIST: Assignment** Go to Youtube and type in "Focused Living Ministries" and select our Youtube channel with the white and red arrow logo. Then watch the 8 minute Bible Project summary of John in order to understand each of the "I Ams" in context as Jesus spoke them. Share them with a family member or friend.

**"I am the bread of life"** (John 6:35, 48) Are you spiritually hungry? Jesus is the only One who can spiritually sustain you.

**"I am the light of the world"** (John 8:12; 9:5) Are you spiritually blind looking for meaning and purpose? Only in and through Christ can you gain spiritual understanding and wisdom for living.

**"I am the door of the sheep"** (John 10:7, 9) Are you seeking the door to salvation and heaven? Only in Christ can you have free and unlimited access to His Kingdom for eternity.

**"I am the good shepherd"** (John 10:11) Are you wandering, lost or floundering in need of direction, protection and provision? Only Christ is qualified to lead your life in the way the Father has designed and desires.

**"I am the resurrection, and the life"** (John 11:25-26) Are you spiritually dead or fear dying? In His resurrection only Jesus can guarantee eternal life with God the Father and only as you focus on Him will your fears in life and fear of death be annulled?

**"I am the way, the truth, and the life"** (John 14:6) Do you have spiritual questions, doubts, and lack security on either side of the grave? Being truth, Jesus is the only One Who can address and answer the uncertainties of life and death.

**"I am the vine"** (John 15:1, 5) Do you desire a meaningful, fruitful and productive life? Only by abiding in and staying connected to Jesus will He be able to produce the eternal fruit of His character in your life.

**"I AM"** (John 8:58; 10:36; Exodus 3:14) Do you have everything you need in life to face the pressures, demands, trials and temptations of this broken world? Whatever you need for Jesus 'to be' He is already that to you and is the only one Who can sustain you through the storms.

**"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end"** (Revelation 1:8) Do you sometimes doubt whether God is in sovereign control of your life and this decaying world? As God in the flesh Jesus is beyond time seeing everything in your life simultaneously and sovereignly working His will and purpose.