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*“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes”* (Psalm 118:22-23).

These words are not only a messianic prophecy of the Lord Jesus, appearing in all the synoptic gospels as well as in Acts and I Peter, but they constitute a profound spiritual axiom. “Builders” will always, by the very definition of the term, reject the Lord Jesus. Consider:

Builders are people in charge of the project. They are the “movers and shakers”; the ones that get things moving, cause things to happen, call the shots. They are the shapers of things that are and things to come. If anything is to be accomplished, the builders must be brought in. Without them, nothing is done.

Builders have a plan. They have a specific objective, a goal. It is, not only envisioned but also drafted out in detail. They have adopted specifications, guidelines, tolerances and limitations. Nothing is left to arbitration or contingency.

Builders have a venue, a place, a scene, a theatre, a locale. What is to be done will be done in a designated site which has already been determined to be the favored one. The building is to be in all things compatible with the chosen place.

Builders have a schedule, an agenda. Work will begin at the appointed time, will proceed according to the times assigned to various parts and be brought to completion on the target date.

Builders have a *modus operandi*, a way to do things. They are the experts, have surveyed all the options, tried and chosen the best technique. They not only will accomplish the goals and objectives, but also will accomplish them by their means.

Builders have counted the cost, made their careful estimation, raised the budget, and secured the financing. They are able to pay for what they intend to build. It is their project. They have taken it on with the confidence that they are not only able to execute the job but pay for it as well.

Builders have been careful to man the project with qualified personnel. They have engaged the experts who have credentials according to their standards.

And finally, builders intend to have their names inscribed in the building. When it is put on display, the glory for it all will be properly ascribed to them.

It ought to be immediately evident why “builders” can never fit into Christianity. They will always reject Christ, the chief cornerstone because He does not fit into their project. He will not fit as He is and He refuses to be modified in order that He may fit in. The building is not theirs but His. He has his own plan, known only to Himself. His venue is wherever He is. The kingdom of God is from one end of heaven to the other. His time schedule is fixed and settled, but known only to the Father. Things will be done by His own sanctified means and no other. The cost of the project is impossibly beyond the reach of men. He, alone, is able to pay it in full.

He chooses no experts, only the blind, halt, maimed, poor, despised and

incompetent so that He alone has all the glory. When the work is finished, all that men can say is “This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes”.

If we would be in that “tabernacle of God through the Spirit”, then we must resign and repudiate our status as builders and take our place as a living stone in the Hands of our Creator, Redeemer and Lord.

*-C. M.*