

Phineas F. Bresee Sermon Notes - Isaiah 28:16

Every attempt has been made to transcribe these notes accurately. Indecipherable text appears in brackets [-]. Abbreviations transcribed as they appear in the notes.

Isaiah XXVIII.16 (2 Peter 2:6) – Therefore thus saith the Lord God. Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation God's words. No matter how great the thought of it or vast the meaning are from everyday life. So when he speaks of man's necessity to have something upon which to build his character his interests & his hopes. He talks about a stone but it is not stone that makes a sure foundation that has been thoroughly tried. That is the Corner S. Precious C-S. And he that believeth shall not make haste. Translated also. Shall not be ashamed &c. All these things are interpreted by the inspired writers to apply to Christ. From this immeasurable rock he teaches some of the facts that cluster around the Rock of Ages. Christ is a sure foundation upon which to build Ch. Interest & hopes. And the principle announced by the Apostles is a universal law. That other foundations Ch. no man lay than that is laid &c. Human impurity has never devised any other sure foundation &c. Where Ch. is sure to be pure and noble. Where interests invested are sure to be beyond the reach of [fad are]. And hopes centered are sure not to go out in despair. Those who reject Christ Jesus have nothing upon which to build the moral nature of their [Chil-] but what they steal from him they seek to slay. There are some forgetful from whence they draw what little M-Ch. they have. Say culture [them] &c. I know of nothing that the world has upon which to build M-Ch. All the morality of the [W] is built upon the Stone C.J. And yet we see men ever ready if the Ch. fails to get some depraved being to build &c to [slur] the foundation. If they fail they only go back to other standards of morals to other foundations of morality &c. But the life teachings, sufferings & death &c form a standard of morals & the means for attaining it which never fail. But says one there are many failures. But it is not owing to the standard &c. Everyone that comes to Christ & builds upon him by faith &c. Puts on the moral foundation of J.C. If we would build the most perfect M Ch. must commence while young & build carefully with our eyes fixed upon the great model touching by faith the blood. Wherever it is developed anything contrary to the noblest heights of this highest standard. It is wonderful that men care so little about their M-Ch. their real [-]. Care more for a few dollars than for the most [-] Ch. He is a sure foundation for our interests. We can have no real interests in opposition. In moral purity. But we have no place where we can build our interest securely but upon J.C. We may build them in the earth but they will be swept away. We may found our interest on human love &c. In bank stocks & granite blocks & yet not fully safe. All that human foresight can do will not prevent their being swept away. But if all our interests center in J.C. If it is the ultimate end of all my labor to be like him & to be accepted of him &c. And what I have said of interest is true of hope &c. Let a young man hope for wealth & he must as a rule gradually yield it up &c. Or for more than ordinary powers of intellect &c. He is the precious Corner Stone. A corner stone is one that joins the building together & gives it stability & strength. We have no security for our own principles or future course of action. Only as we are built into this corner stone. The man that discards J.C. [either] in theory or practice or both is uncertain as to the principles he may adopt or the life he may pursue. He may have been so indoctrinated by his parents & lived under the influence of such a sweat & unclouded piety &c that he may never be able or willing to give up his belief in the R-of J.C. And yet if he does not embrace him &c. He little knows the degrees of wickedness he may arrive at. Of how his passions will yet be set on fire of hell. His conscious &c. His whole soul died &c. Or he may discard him in his theory cutting loose from the worlds Redeemer. May strike out to pick up what he himself approves. Discarding everything but what he approves. Defies himself. Every man a worshiper of himself you know not where he will bring up. &c. No stability in principle &

action only as the soul is [built] in J.C. But if you have full confidence that a man is built into J.C. you know just how he will do in a given call &c. Corner stones are not only for strength & stability but for ornament. We build in J.C. for beauty of M- Ch. There is no moral beauty. The fashioning hand of the skillful sculptor is not on the unregenerate &c. There is beauty in life but we are dead. A rock upon which the storm & the sunshine beat alike without moving it is as dead as the [-]. It is cold, hard, dead. There is beauty even in death if it [images], innocence, purity & love. In the cold stone, as chiseled by the hand of a sculptor. But go with me to that little old gracious city. We have heard that in the [-] of our old temple &c. There is a beautifully carved statue &c. I begin to look at [it] face. The eyes look strange. There are real eyes there not of love but serpents eyes &c. One [protrudes] his head from between his lips &c. Such is the human heart defying God. Blaspheming his name hating his law &c. There is beauty in the corpse just after life has taken its flight &c. But here is corruptive. Jesus takes hold of my dead soul. That touch gives me power to look at him. I look that longing look &c. He lets his precious blood flow &c. It destroys my [piteous]. I put my arm of faith about him &c. This is a precious Corner Stone. This S to which we build. That gives stability and beauty to the whole Ch. is no ordinary stone from the quarry. He is the most precious jewel of heaven put into [h – h] to transform the whole. We sometimes emblemize things very precious by P Stones then we speak of heaven but Jesus the author of all these &c. But he is especially precious in the estimation of those whose hearts he transforms. To them he is the [choicest] &c. The richest jewels of earth are nothing. In comparison, its fairest palaces are graveyards. All other associations & influences are valueless &c. The soul cries out. The one great treasure of all space & time is J.C. He is a tried Stone. Our recent author says that the religion of J.C. is now on trial &c. No more than it has been for 1800 yr. Wicked men &c have done all possible against J.C. But he has always conquered at last. And knowing what I know about J.C. I have no more fear &c. He was tried in the days of his incarnation &c. He was tried when the defiant church with him in the midst was pitted against with the world &c. He has been tried as the ages have swept on breaking against this rock &c. By untold millions of perishing [arise] as they have trusted to him their all &c. And as the morning tide has washed them upon the E shore &c. He that believeth &c.

End of notes