

Theme: We are seeking to build a church whose life, ministry and mission are built upon the firm foundation of God's Word, the Bible.

I. Intro - Back to the Main Principles

- A. A poll in 2017 - only 37% of Americans can name even one of the rights in the First Amendment
- B. No wonder religious liberty is in great peril today!
- C. We should never assume the core values and vision that unite us as a people
- D. Same is true for BRCC! What does it mean to be a Biblically based, Christ centered, Caring Community?
- E. We will cover each item during January

II. The Importance of Scripture

- A. Note how central Scripture is in this passage
As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men (Psalm 118:22) but chosen by God and precious to him (Isaiah 28:16) — ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood (Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 61:6), offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” (Isaiah 28:16) ⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,” (Psalm 118:22) ⁸ and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” (Isaiah 8:14) They stumble because they disobey the message — which is also what they were destined for (Isaiah 8:14-15). ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, (Exodus 19:6; Isaiah 43:20-21) that you may declare the praises of him (Isaiah 43:21) who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (Hosea 1:6-2:1; 2:23) - 1 Peter 2:4–10

- 1. Almost every phrase in this text comes from the OT
- 2. Everything Peter wants to say about the church is built upon Scripture
- 3. Peter uses the metaphor of a living building for the church - and the blueprint and mortar for that building is Scripture.

B. Why the Scripture is so important

- 1. The Scripture is essential because it is the inspired, inerrant Word of God, the final rule for the faith and practice of individual believers and the Church.

- a. This is the teaching of Scripture itself - and Jesus!

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. ² Timothy 3:16–17

Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ Matthew 15:3–4

- b. This is why Scripture is the final rule of faith & practice

Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?... ⁶ Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition... ⁹ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.” Matthew 15:3, 6, 9

- 2. Because it is God's Word, Scripture is necessary and sufficient for us to know the truth about God, ourselves, the Church, and the Gospel. (This is why Scripture is so central in our passage which is about the church being built together).

3. Because it is God's Word, Scripture is both the blueprint and the lifeblood for a local church. It describes how we are to live and build together, and it provides the nourishment for us to grow in health.

III. Building A Biblically Based Church

- A. In a biblically based church the leaders carefully study, apply, and teach God's Word (life and ministry)
 1. Peter is explaining and drawing out the implications of many Scriptures in this passage
 2. Leaders must carefully and consistently study, personally apply, and teach God's Word to the congregation, helping them to understand and apply it in their own lives
For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. Ezra 7:10
 3. This is why the qualifications for elders in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3 include both the ability to teach Scripture and a godly character
- B. In a biblically based church every member must study God's Word for themselves, seeking to test everything the leaders teach to make sure it matches the Scripture
Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. Acts 17:11
 1. Each member should eagerly receive teaching from the leaders, expecting that God is using the leaders to help them understand Scripture.
 2. However each member must also study God's Word on their own, to make sure the leaders are not distorting Scripture

3. This is why we publish all of the teachings and outlines on our website - to help you study and check out everything that is being taught

- C. In a biblically based church every member must speak God's Word to one another (life and ministry)
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16
 1. For the Word to dwell richly in a church, each member must speak God's Word to other members
 2. All of us must help each other to know and apply God's Word in our own lives
- D. In a biblically based church every member must speak God's Word to those who do not yet know Jesus (mission)
But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9
 1. As those called by God to be His chosen people and royal priesthood, we speak of Him to others
 2. This certainly includes other Christians, but it also includes unbelievers - Peter does not limit it
 3. Furthermore, 1 Peter 2:11-12 directly speak of the unbelieving world
Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5-6

1. Each of us must be wise, looking for and making the most of every opportunity to reach unbelievers
2. This is more than our lifestyle - it includes our conversations with them
3. God's Word must fill our mouths in conversations with believers and unbelievers, pointing to God and the Gospel

5. We come to the Table to confess our lack of hunger for God and His Word
6. We come to the Table to receive grace to renew our hunger for God and His Word

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Am I helping build a biblically based church?
 1. This is central to who we are at BRCC
 2. To build a biblically based church requires ALL of us
 3. Am I eager to hear and respond to God's Word?
 4. Am I personally studying and applying God's Word?
 5. Am I speaking God's Word to others in BRCC?
 6. Am I speaking God's Word to the lost around me?
- B. The Table: The Word Made Visible
 1. The Table has always held a central place in worship
 2. The Reformers correctly taught that Word and Sacrament go together
 3. The Word explains the Sacraments, and the Sacraments make the Word visible
 4. At the Table we see the Word of the Gospel made visible - Christ lived and died for us; He is risen and intercedes for us, and will come again

A Biblically Based Church

1 Peter 2:4-10
 January 7, 2018
 Communion
 Acts 20:32

Teaching keywords: Church; Word of God

Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts 20:32

As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him — ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” ⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,” ⁸ and, “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message — which is also what they were destined for. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:4–10