**“To Which They Also Were Appointed”**

*1 Peter 2:8*

**Introduction**

1. Peter notes the blessedness of the state of his readers, and beckons them to continue to grow in service to God:
   1. Elect and sanctified (**1:2)**; Children with an inheritance (**1:3-4);** Beneficiaries of Messianic prophecy **(1:10-12);** Called to holiness, redeemed by Christ’s blood **(1:13-21);** Born again of God’s word **(1:22-25**).
   2. Therefore, they are called to: Grow (**2:1-3);** Realize their blessedness (**2:4-6, 9-10)**
2. However, just as there are the elect of God **(1:2)**, there are those opposite Him – **1 Peter 2:6-8**
   1. **(v. 6)** – the spiritual priesthood built upon the living stone of Christ was prophesied in the Old Testament – **cf. Isaiah 28:16** – a place of refuge/salvation.
      1. **(v. 7a)** – those who believe/trust in Him see Him as precious.
   2. **(v. 7b)** – prophecy He would be rejected, but still placed – **cf. Psalm 118:22** – though rejected, would still be placed as chief cornerstone by God. (Rejected most important stone).
   3. **(v. 8a)** – While precious to believers, destructive to unbelievers – **cf. Isaiah 8:14** (Concerning the people of Judah rejecting Jehovah and seeking the alliance with Assyria when facing threat of Syria and Israel – Assyria would be their downfall according to the command of Jehovah – Jehovah could have been their refuge – Isaiah told to trust in the Lord)
   4. **(v. 8b)** – they stumble at the stone being disobedient – ***“TO WHICH THEY ALSO WERE APPOINTED”***
3. ***“They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.” (ESV)***
   1. Calvinism – “It does not seem possible to escape the conclusion that what the text does affirm (the ‘destining’ of present disobedience of unbelievers) implies also that all disobedience which tragically does persist to the end of life (and thus into eternity) has been ‘destined’ by God.” (Wayne Grudem, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, 1 Peter 2:8)
   2. “By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life; and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated, and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished.” (Westminster Confession of 1646: Chapter III. Of God’s Eternal Decree)
   3. Does this text teach unchangeable foreordination of the disobedience of some and predestination to eternal punishment?
4. Practical importance – Is everything already decided for me, for good or bad? Do I really have a choice? Is there anything God has set in stone?
5. To what were they appointed?
6. ***“for they stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.” (ASV)***
   1. Stumbling at the word – what they are appointed to.
   2. Cause – being disobedient.
7. ***“for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this [doom] they were also appointed.” (NASB)***
   1. This [doom] – what they are appointed to.
      1. Doom = “for they stumble”
   2. Cause – they are disobedient to the word.
8. Context:
   1. Jesus was rejected by men, but chosen by God – **1 Peter 2:4**
      1. **(vv. 6-7a)** – blessedness of accepting/believing/obeying chief cornerstone.
         1. **(v. 5)** – Spiritual house – holy priesthood – spiritual sacrifices
         2. By no means be put to shame – i.e. not be disappointed in putting trust in Him through failure in hope. (**cf. 1 Peter 1:5** – kept by power of God through faith for salvation)
      2. **(vv. 7b-8)** – doom of rejecting/not believing/disobeying chief cornerstone.
         1. **(v. 7b)** – their rejection did not change God’s choice – HE IS STILL ESTABLISHED.
            1. **Builders** – Jews looking forward to Messianic kingdom.
            2. **Cf. Psalm 2:1-6** – rebel, but God still sets up His King.
         2. (**v. 8)** – consequences of rejection are far-reaching.
            1. **(vv. 6, 7)** – cornerstone – a foundation stone for building.
            2. **(v. 8)** – Yet, that which is used for building is for destroying against those who reject it.
   2. Rejection of the stone results in destruction by the stone (not an alternate path devoid of negative consequences):
      1. Stumbling (N) – *proskomma* – a stub, i.e. (figuratively) occasion of apostasy (STRONG)
         1. ***“They stumble”*** (V) *– proskoptō* – to strike at, i.e. surge against (as water); specially, to stub on, i.e. trip up (literally or figuratively) (STRONG)
      2. Offense – *skandalon* – a trap-stick (bent sapling), i.e. snare (STRONG)
         1. “A *skandalon* is the crooked stick of a trap, to which the bait is affixed, by which the trap is sprung that kills the victim.” (Lenski)
         2. **Isaiah 8:14** – added, ***“as a trap and a snare”***
   3. This does not speak of a minor consequence of discomfort, but a lethal encounter.
   4. To such they were “appointed”, not based on any choice made for them, but based on a choice they made themselves.
      1. **Such a choice had warnings of consequences attached to it by God which could not be changed.**
      2. However, the choice could be avoided.
9. The Cause – not unchangeable design, but free-will.
   1. **1 Peter 2:6-7** – the stone was unchangeably chosen by God, but the acceptance or rejection of Him was of free will.
      1. “The first passage reads like a brief parable. There was a certain stone, and there were builders busily at work. For the kind of building they were planning they took many stones, but this particular stone they considered totally unfit” (Lenski).
      2. I.e. they had no choice concerning the nature of the stone, and its place of importance as chosen by God, but they could choose what to do with it personally (accept/reject).
   2. **Ezekiel 18:19-20** – the consequences of either action is set, but the action is by free-will.
      1. This is fair, though some claim otherwise – **Ezekiel 18:25-29**
      2. God makes known where the choice leads. One can determine which choice they make.
   3. **Deuteronomy 30:15-18** – one can choose either to obey or not, but one cannot choose an alternate consequence – **this is married to the choice**.
   4. Sowing and reaping – **Galatians 6:7-8** – one can choose what to sow, but they cannot choose what that seed will yield – **such is fixed** (do not be deceived).
      1. **1 Peter 2:8** – they were appointed to ***“stumble”*** because they chose to disobey – if they chose to obey they would ***“by no means be put to shame.”***
10. Why were they appointed to it?
11. The Scripture Cannot be Broken
    1. Jews to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but Jesus makes argument against the charge using scripture – **John 10:30-36**
       1. **(v. 34)** – quoting scripture, Jesus shows that men were called ***“gods.”***
          1. **Psalm 82:1-2, 6-7** – Psalm calling for justice among judges which are corrupt, and not dealing justly.
       2. **(v. 35)** – these men were called ***“gods,”*** and ***“children of the Most High”***
          1. ***“to whom the word of God came”*** – i.e. judges.
          2. **Scripture cannot be broken** – it is authoritative, and unchangeable. Just because you may not like what it says doesn’t make it less true, or alter it.
       3. **(v. 36)** – if they are called gods (mere corrupt judges) it is right for Jesus to be called the Son of God – sanctified, sent into world by God. (Miracles to prove it.)
       4. **Jesus’ argument rested on the authority of God’s word, and the fact that it can’t be broken – what is written remains written.**
    2. God’s word accomplishes what it is sent to do – **Isaiah 55:10-11**
    3. ***“Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89).***
12. Opposing God’s Will is Always Fatal
    1. Count the cost – **Luke 14:31-33** – not just of being able to finish building but being able to go against the coming king.
       1. **(vv. 25-30)** – have you thought about what it takes to follow Him – are you willing?
       2. **(vv. 31-33)** – have you thought about the cost of not following Him? Could you prevail?
    2. **Isaiah 40:6-8** – man can fail, but the word of God cannot. What happens when a man comes down on God’s unbreakable word?
    3. Parable of Wicked Vinedressers – **Matthew 21:33-44**
       1. Servants sent – beaten, killed, stoned (2x)
       2. Son sent – they’ll respect him – cast out, killed, to take inheritance.
       3. **(vv. 40-41)** – what will happen to them? Answered correctly.
       4. Jesus applies it to them – **(vv. 42-44)**
          1. Quoted **Psalm 118:22-23** – may have rejected, but still set as cornerstone. (**cf. 1 Peter 2:7**)
          2. Consequence – (**vv. 43-44)** – sentiment of **Isaiah 8:14**
          3. **They could not oppose God’s will and expect to be unscathed!**
          4. **TO COME DOWN ON GOD’S WORD IN DISOBEDIENCE IS TO BE APPOINTED TO DESTRUCTION.**
13. **Application** – not simply in initial obedience to the gospel, but in ongoing change and growth. No matter the subject, if God’s word says it, the appointed consequence of rejection is doom.

**Conclusion**

1. **1 Peter 2:8** – their disobedience was a product of their free-will, but the consequence of it was by the appointment of God.
2. God has made certain in His will of the outcome of faith/obedience and unbelief/disobedience.
3. If you fail to submit to God, you can be sure you’re destined for destruction. If you submit to God, you ***“will by no means be put to shame.”***