

Pentecost 20, October 22, 2017

Matthew 21:33-43, The Stone the Builders Rejected has become the Capstone

Rev. George Ferch

Fellow-Redeemed,

- It has always struck me.
- Acres and acres of vines often on rolling green hills are a picture postcard of tranquility.
- The Parable of the Tenants is a striking parable of contrast between what should have been, and what is.
- **The Stone the Builders Rejected has become the Capstone.** In Christ God has extended his grace to all. Through Christ God has judged all.
- The vineyard is the kingdom of God. The landowner is God.
- All throughout Israel's history, God had sent prophets to his people.
- What did the prophets get for their faithful efforts? "The tenants seized his servants; they beat the one, killed another and stoned a third."
- Not giving up on the tenants, the landowner rightfully expected them to treat his son better.
- Matthew tells us that they knew who Jesus was referring to in this parable.
- Jesus applied the words of Psalm 118 to the chief priests' and Pharisees' actions.
- God's judgment does not take place apart from Christ.
- Jesus Christ is an offense to those who want to rely on their own righteousness.
- Through Christ God will judge us all.
- Do you welcome the landowner's servants who represent him?
- Do you welcome the Son?
- Jesus Christ is "in the house."
- Through Christ God has judged you not guilty of your sins.
- May the Holy Spirit bring about daily repentance so we do not become "wicked husbandmen" and receive a wretched end.
- Instead, be the tenants who will produce fruit and "give him his share of the crop at harvest time." Amen. <SDG>