

## Essay from the bold pastor

### #79 - The Rolling Stones 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary –

The Rolling Stones, the band that just celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is coming to perform in Anaheim, Orange County. What's astonishing is the ticket price. Even the cheapest seats cost \$173, and the highest priced seats cost as much as \$630. That's the price you pay at the box office. If you buy your ticket through other ticket providers, the price must go up even higher.

The same thing happened when the band had the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert in London and New York last year. Due to its limited availability, the ticket price was extremely high. Nevertheless, the event turned out to be a huge success, proving their unchanging popularity. We can easily picture Mick Jagger laughing out loud.

Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, the core members of the band since its formation, are 69 years old. Charlie Watts who plays drum is as old as 71. They're certainly a group of cool old men! When asked about the secret for their long-lasting career in an interview, they immediately replied that it's simply because they are great and they love what they do. They also remarked that they play for themselves, they love to play with each other, and that's where their energy comes from.

So, what's next for them? Their answer is, "Rolling stones cannot be stopped. If something like an avalanche was coming at you, you would have no choice but to let it slide." They sound as if they're immortal. Upon hearing the band compare themselves to "rolling stones," I remembered what Jesus Christ was trying to teach by comparing himself to stones.

**"Have you never read in the Scriptures: " 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'**

**Matthew 21:42, ESV**

The Scriptures here refer to the prophecy of Jesus birth in **Psalms 118:22** that was written 1000 years before his time. The prophecy also foresaw that Jesus Christ was eventually going to get despised and abandoned by people, sacrifice his life for our sins, come back to life, and become the foundation for Gospel, then the cornerstone for the then-starting church. About 2000 years have passed since. What an astronomical story that is! 50-year anniversary is nothing compared to that. We shall praise Jesus Christ, the permanent cornerstone that is magnificent and takes care of his fellow humans.

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