

Need for Restoration

Scripture Text: 2 Chronicles 34:15, 16, 21

About the Text:

- 1) King Josiah was 8 years old when he began to reign as king.
- 2) His father, Amon, was an evil and idolatrous king.
- 3) Josiah's reign began by destroying all of the idolatrous places.
- 4) In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, a project to restore the temple was underway.
- 5) When Hilkiah went to get money to pay the workers from the temple, he found a book.
- 6) This was the book of Moses—God's law to Israel.
- 7) This book was read before the king.
- 8) Josiah then turned his efforts toward restoring the true worship of God in Israel.

The need for restoration implies...

I. SOMETHING IS CORRUPT.

1. When restoring a house, you start with fixing the problems.
2. In Josiah's case, Israel's worship was corrupt.
 - 1) Idolatrous practices.
 - 2) Temple was in disrepair.
 - 3) Were not reading God's law.
 - 4) Were not observing the Passover.
3. In our case today, there is around us the corruption of religion.
 - 1) Catholicism is not what Jesus built—it is a corruption of the original.
 - a. 2 Thess. 2:3-4.
 - b. 1 Timothy 4:1ff
 - 2) The Reformation was tried to fix the corrupt—the result is denominationalism.
 - a. Denominationalism does not restore the church. (Org., Unity, Worship, etc.)
 - b. It is merely a replacement for Catholicism.
 - 3) Only a restoration of God's original plan can bring us back to God's true religion.

4. There is an ongoing need for restoration today among those who would profess to be Christians.

II. THE NEED FOR A PATTERN

1. When restoring a house, you need to get the original blueprints.
2. Josiah's restoration only occurred after he found the book of the law.
3. Today, if we are going to restore the church, we must go back to the original blueprints.
4. That blueprint—that pattern—is the word of God.

1) Luke 8:11 "The seed is the word of God."

a. A seed is a pattern.

b. You only get one thing from a seed.

2) 1 Peter 1:23

5. We need a pattern if we are going to restore the church.

1) 2 Timothy 1:13

2) Romans 6:17

III. UNITY OF PURPOSE

1. When restoring a house, the chief architect has the final decision.
2. Josiah's restoration would not have happened if he did not have the support of the priests and scribes.
3. Today, we must have unity of purpose if we are going to restore the church.

1) Jesus prayed for unity. John 17:20-21

2) Paul commanded unity. 1 Corinthians 1:10

3) Our fellowship is based upon unity. Ephesians 4:3-6

IV. THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE.

1. When you restore a house, you may have everything in place, but if you fail to do the work, the house will never be restored.
2. When Josiah recognized that he had everything he needed to restore Israel's worship, he went to work.
3. We have what we need to continue our efforts at restoration. Let's go to work.

1) Jesus said, (Matthew 9:37-38).

2) Gal. 6:9

3) 1 Corinthians 3:9

4) Will we let God's power work in us? Ephesians 3:20-21

1. The restoration plea is still valid today. If we are going to restore God's church today, we must recognize

- 1) That there is corruption.
- 2) There must be a pattern.
- 3) There must be a great purpose for unity.
- 4) There must be a willingness to work.

2. Invitation

- 1) If you are a Christian but have fallen away
 - a. You have left the pattern.
 - b. You have fallen back into corruption.
 - c. Return to God's way and be restored to the church this hour.
- 2) If you are not a Christian this morning...
 - a. Would you hear the great call restoration?
 - b. No other religion is going to help you except the pure religion of Jesus Christ.
 - c. Heed the plan that it has for man's salvation today!

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