

THE RESTORATION PLEA (2)

Jeremiah 6:16

Introduction:

- 1. A couple in the church in Alabama bought an old mansion built in the late 1800's.**
 - a. It had once been a fine home in an elite section of the city.**
 - b. Through the years the area had declined.**
 - c. The house had fallen into disrepair and decay.**
 - d. They bought it to restore it as it was originally.**

- 2. A favorite hobby of many men is to restore old cars.**
 - a. They take an old junker and return it to its original glory.**
 - b. Every part must be original and nothing essential left out.**

- 3. Webster defines restore as “to bring back to a former or normal condition as by repairing, rebuilding, etc.”**

- 4. To reform is “to make better by removing faults or defects, to put a stop to faults and abuses.”**
 - a. The 16th century Reformation proposed to reform the Catholic Church by correcting the most glaring abuses such as selling church offices, selling indulgences, etc.**
 - b. The Restoration seeks to restore the original church as it was in the beginning by following the Divine pattern.**

- 5. There are certain principles which are essential to the restoration of New Testament Christianity.**

Discussion:

- I. THE RESTORATION IS A “BACK TO THE BIBLE” MOVEMENT.**
 - A. The Bible, particularly the New Testament, is the pattern.**

1. **A seamstress follows a pattern for a dress.**
 2. **A builder follows a blueprint for a building.**
- B. The Bible is the perfect pattern for the church (Luke 8:11).**
1. **God is its Architect (Ephesians 2:13-18; 3:8-12).**
 2. **Jesus is its Builder (Matthew 16:18).**
 3. **The Bible is inspired of God (1 Corinthians 2:6-16).**
 4. **It contains everything we need to know, do, believe and practice (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:3).**
 5. **We will be judged by it at the Last Day (John 12:48).**
- C. The temple and the tabernacle were “types” of the church.**
1. **A type is a physical likeness of the spiritual reality.**

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us-baptism {not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God} through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:18-21).
 2. **The tabernacle was built according to God’s pattern (Exodus 25:9,40; Hebrews 8:5).**
 3. **The temple was also built according to God’s pattern (1 Chronicles 28:11-13, 19).**
 4. **The tabernacle and temples were types of the church; just as they were built according to the pattern so also was the church (Romans 6:17; 2 Timothy 1:13).**

II. FOR RESTORATION TO BE POSSIBLE, THE BIBLE MUST BE THE STANDARD OF AUTHORITY.

A. Many follow the traditions and commandments of men.

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me, and in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (Matthew 15:8,9).

B. Many follow whatever is popular with the majority.

“You shall not follow a crowd to do evil” (Exodus 23:2).

“Enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13,14).

C. Many follow their own wishes and desires:

1. The parable of the two builders shows the difference between those who hear and do compared to those who hear but do not (Matthew 7:24-27).

2. Jesus asked: “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

III. FOR RESTORATION TO BE POSSIBLE, THE BIBLE MUST BE RIGHTLY DIVIDED.

A. We must understand the difference between the covenants.

1. There are three ages of Bible history.

a. The Patriarchal Age from creation to Sinai.

- b. The Mosaic Age from Sinai to the cross.
 - c. The Christian Age from the cross to the second coming of Christ.
2. The Old Testament ended at the cross and the New Testament is our law and guide today.

“...having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to His cross” (Colossians 2:14).

“For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law” (Hebrews 7:12).

“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant which was established on better promises” (Heb. 8:6).

B. We must understand how to establish Bible authority.

- 1. We must ask three questions:
 - a. Who is speaking?
 - b. To whom is he speaking?
 - c. What are the circumstances?
- 2. We must understand specific and generic authority.
 - a. Jesus: “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:16).
 - b. “Go” is commanded, how we go is left up to us.

Conclusion:

- 1. When the Gospel is preached, sinners must obey to be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).
- 2. Those saved are added to the Lord’s church (Acts 2:41,47).

