

RESTORATION **(Jeremiah 6:16-17)**

I. What restoration is not.

- A. Restoration is not the same thing as reformation.
- B. The word reform is defined as: the improvement or amendment of what is wrong, corrupt, unsatisfactory.
 - 1. This is what Martin Luther sought to do to the Catholic Church back in 1517 when he nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church building in Wittenberg, Germany.
 - 2. He was a Catholic priest and he did not want to leave the Catholic Church, only reform what he believed was wrong with it.
- C. You cannot reform something that is corrupt at its core.
 - 1. The Catholic Church came out of the church about which we read in the New Testament.
 - 2. It was the result of a merging of Christianity, paganism and Judaism.
- D. What if you had a car that was put together with body parts from a Cadillac, a Bentley and a Lincoln?
 - 1. Suppose over the course of time it had gotten rust spots and other problems.
 - 2. Originally, it had been a Cadillac but modifications were made and the car was changed.
 - 3. If someone came into possession of the vehicle as it had become, could they say they were going to restore it to original form and be right using parts from a Cadillac, Bentley and Lincoln?
 - 4. No, they would be reforming what was put together, but to truly restore it, they would have to use all original Cadillac parts, thus bringing it back to what it originally was.
- E. The same thing is true with the church about which we read in the New Testament; you have to go back to the original ideals for it to be restored.

II. Some biblical support for restoration.

- A. That which God has put in place for those that follow Him to practice has never lasted long.
 - 1. Not because God changes it, but because man does.
 - 2. It was not long into the Mosaic Law before the people started changing worship and offerings to God.
- B. The book of Judges reveals the perversions that took place and the outright apostasy.
- C. Notice what is written about Hezekiah in 2 Chronicles 30:1-5.
 - 1. There was scriptural support to partake of the Passover in the 2nd month if one was unclean (Numbers 9:10-11).
 - 2. The problem was that it had not been done correctly in a long time.
- D. Now, go to 2 Kings 23:21-22.
 - 1. This Passover was done strictly by the Mosaic Law.
 - 2. So much so that we are told it had not been done so from the days

- of the judges.
- E. What did they do to restore the Passover?
 - 1. They simply did what was written in God's word.
 - 2. They went back to the original commands and did exactly what they were told to do.
 - 3. This is biblical restoration.
 - F. Jeremiah encouraged those of his day to "seek the old paths" (Jeremiah 6:16-17).
 - 1. His idea, an inspired idea no less, was to go back to the beginning, to what the law said do.
 - 2. Sadly, they would not have it so.
 - G. Biblical restoration is going back to God's word and doing what He has said to do, not what we want or like to do.

III. **Is there a pattern to turn back towards?**

- A. Again, the argument given by many who clamor for change is, "Which church are you going to restore?"
 - 1. Are you going to restore Corinth with its division?
 - 2. Are you going to restore Jerusalem with its problems with Judaistic teachers?
 - 3. Are you going to restore Ephesus with its loss of its first love?
- B. The answer is none of the above.
- C. What the desire of those that call for true restoration is a return to simply what the Bible says.
 - 1. Quotes from those who were a part of what is now known as the restoration movement point to that.
 - 2. Speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.
 - 3. Give a thus saith the Lord for all teaching.
 - 4. These and others all indicate a desire to follow nothing but the word of the Lord, the New Testament.
- D. The fact is, there is a pattern we need to follow.
- E. Paul told the Romans they had obeyed that form of doctrine that had been taught them (Romans 6:17).
 - 1. The word form means pattern or model of a building.
 - 2. Paul says the Romans had obeyed a pattern of doctrine and the very next verse points out that because of that obedience they'd been freed from sin.
 - 3. A pattern of doctrine had been taught them; the same pattern Paul taught everywhere (1 Corinthians 4:17).
- F. Moses is given to us as an illustration of following a God-given pattern (Hebrews 8:5).
 - 1. Just as Moses was to build the tabernacle according to a God-given pattern, we are to restore the New Testament church in the same manner.
 - 2. We follow the pattern of teaching given by the inspired writers of the New Testament to do so.

- G. Timothy was told to hold fast the “form of sound words” (2 Timothy 1:13).
 - 1. Sadly, through the following years, those sound words were not held fast.
 - 2. The pattern was deviated from and it led to apostasy.
- H. However, whenever and wherever that pattern is followed the New Testament church can and is restored.