

THE PRINCIPLE OF RESTORATION

Introduction:

1. The kings of Judah were mostly bad, but a few were good.
2. Josiah was one of the righteous kings of the Southern Kingdom.
3. During his reign, he led a restoration of the nation back to the Will of God.
4. From his example, we may learn the principles of restoration...

- I. Seek God's Will (2 Chronicles 34: 1-3)
 - A. From youth (1 Samuel 2: 18; Ecclesiastes 12: 1; Acts 17: 24-28)
 - B. "Seek" means, "to frequent, follow, ask or worship."
 - C. Turn not from it (cf. 1 Kings 13: 1-5)
 - D. For a true restoration, one must seek God's will.
- II. Remove That Which Is Contrary (2 Chronicles 34: 3-7)
 - A. Sin (idolatry) had to be removed completely.
 - B. There had to be a separation from those who practiced sin.
 - C. Sin had to be removed from all parts of the nation.
 - D. For a true restoration, that which is contrary to God's will must be removed.
 1. The church
 - a. Luther – *indulgences, etc.*
 - b. Yard sales, missionary society, etc.
 2. The individual
 - a. Remove sin by obeying the Gospel
 - b. Remove sin by second law of pardon
- III. Repair That Which Is Broken (2 Chronicles 34: 8)
 - A. When sin is removed, worship is possible; but it must be according to God's will (cf. Matt. 5: 23-24; John 4: 24).
 - B. Requires submission, sacrifice, and faithful work
 - C. For a true restoration, that which is broken must be repaired.
 1. The church
 - a. Repair singing by tearing down instrumental music (Eph. 5: 19)
 - b. Repair Lord's Supper by weekly observance (Acts 20: 7)
 - c. Repair preaching by truth alone (2 Tim. 4: 2)
 - d. Repair giving by first day of week (1 Cor. 16: 1-2)
 - e. Repair prayer by reverence and sincerity (Matt. 6: 7-13)
 2. The individual
 - a. Attendance
 - b. Participation
 - c. Devotion
- IV. Restore That Which Is Neglected (2 Chronicles 34: 14-19)
 - A. God's Law must be found and read.
 - B. It must be received with humility and penitence (cf. Joel 2: 13).
 - C. One must not rely upon past obedience or good works alone.
 - D. One must remember God's justice and mercy (34: 24-28).
 - E. One must try to encourage restoration, even if others reject the message (34: 29-33).
 - F. One must be true to God's Word, even if it is different from what others have done (35: 18).
 - G. Individual restoration is essential to one's salvation.
 - H. For a true restoration, that which has been neglected must be reinstated.

Conclusion: *Do you need to be restored?*