

THE RESTORATION PRINCIPLE

KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

II Kings 23:1-3

Introduction

- The principle of restoration brings to mind a number of appropriate words: pattern, example, rule, intention, plan, blueprint, standard, direction, way, lawful, suitability, identity, picture, implementation, actualization, activation.
- In short: a realization of Christ's church.

Jesus' Purpose for His Church

- To seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10).
- To bring the saved to Christlike maturity (Gal. 4:19; 2:20).
- To understand that the best "method" for the saved to use in seeking and saving the lost is to live like the Christ (Rom. 8:29).

Praise and Edification

- As we praise God in all things, we edify each other (Eph. 5:18-20; Col. 3:16-17).
- The spirit of Christ's church is actualized when Christians live in thankfulness to God and mutual building up of one another.
- A church more concerned with personal matters than with God's greatness is no real church!

To Be Known for Christlike Love

- To love as He loved (Jn. 13:34-35).
- The most excellent way of all (I Cor. 12:31-13:13).
- The force that brings about unity (Jn. 17:21-23; I Cor. 1:10).
- For God and men (I Jn. 4:19-21).

Obedience to Christ is a MUST!

- Words alone simply will not do (Matt. 7:21-23; Lk. 6:46).
- The way of the church is narrow (Matt. 7:13-14).
- Those who love Jesus act on what He teaches (Jn. 14:15, 23; Matt. 7:24-27).

A Living Testimony to God

- The living realization of much rich Old Covenant imagery (I Pet. 2:5, 9).
- A living sacrifice of testimony regarding God's good, well-pleasing, and perfect will (Rom. 12:1-2).
- A dwelling place for God in the Spirit (Eph. 2:19-22).

The Only Standard

- The word of God (Jn. 17:17).
- The faith delivered once, and for all time (Jude 3).
- Thoroughly furnishing to every good deed (II Tim. 3:16-17).
- All things to do with life and godliness (II Pet. 1:2-3).
- To be studied with diligence to allow for discernment (II Tim. 2:15).

Conclusion

- The church must live in every era of this earth's remaining life.
- The dream of Jesus is that this be so.
- With purpose, praise and edification, love, obedience, God's word, and Christlikeness we can and must succeed.
- The Dream must be kept alive!

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