

Restoring New Testament Christianity



Restoring New Testament Christianity

Study Number: 29

Watch the free video or listen to the audio of this study @ www.godsaidso.com/dgw29

Bible study material by Eric Krieg

About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

Copyright: Copyright © 2017 by Godsaidso Press. Please use this material to God's glory and honor. Feel free to copy and distribute this material in any way that will bring God glory and help souls to be saved. However, you may not take any of the material out of context or change the material in any way. Please provide the author with the proper credit for the material.

Scripture quotations: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

**FIND MORE FROM THE DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES AND
OTHER FREE BIBLE STUDY MATERIAL @ WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM**

Restoring New Testament Christianity

The word “restore” is defined as, “to return (something) to an earlier or original condition by repairing it, cleaning it, etc.” (Restore. *Merriam-Webster’s Online Dictionary*, accessed July 24, 2014 from <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/restore>).

Take a moment to consider how this word is used in our society. Some folks work on restoring houses. They take a house that may be run down – and return it to its original condition by cleaning it up and making the necessary repairs. Some folks work on restoring cars. They take a car that isn’t running well or one that has been neglected – and return it to its original condition by cleaning it up and making the necessary repairs.

Of course, one key in restoration is that it seeks to return to the *original* condition! Consider the difference, then, between *restoration* and *reformation*. Reformation seeks to *improve* something by removing or correcting many of its faults. However, restoration is a complete attempt to get back to the original (not just making some improvements). In restoration, the *original* is the standard! If you are restoring a house, the original blueprints or pictures of that house may be the standard used in the remodeling – and everything is evaluated by the question, “Would this have been found in the original house?” (i.e. the types of building materials, the types of decorations, etc.). If you are restoring a car, the *original* design of the car is the standard used throughout the process. Those who are working on the car must continually return to the standard to ask, “Would this have been found in the original model?” (i.e. the parts that would have been used, the colors that would have been used, etc.).

While we are familiar with these kinds of examples, have you ever considered the need for a restoration to New Testament Christianity? **Since the New Testament is the standard in religion today, have you ever stopped to compare the religious world we live in today with the teachings of the New Testament?** There are tens of thousands of different religious organizations throughout the world today (over 60,000 was the last number I have seen; but, this number is growing rapidly). However, they all believe, teach, and practice their religion differently from the rest (that’s what often makes them separate from each other). But, you need to ask yourself, “Does God approve of all this religious division?” Have you ever asked yourself whether God approves of the changes that have been made to His teachings? God has only given us one standard to live by in the pages of the Bible. There are no contradictions in the Bible – as it is the perfect revelation from God! So, how do tens of thousands of religious organizations come from God’s one unified message?

There is a problem! They are *not* all from God! Consider what is written in Matthew 15:13-14: “But He answered and said, ‘Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.’” The purpose of this study is to encourage you to think about why you need to restore New Testament Christianity today and to learn about how you can accomplish this task.

Biblical Examples Of Restoration

As we begin in this Bible study, please take a few moments to consider some Old Testament principles of restoration. There are some great lessons we can learn from the Old Testament regarding why and how restoration attempts were made. These examples inspire me to restore New Testament Christianity – and I hope they will have the same effect on you!

Restoring Abraham's wells

Consider the text from Genesis 26:15-18 that talks about the restoration of Abraham's wells. "Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with earth. And Abimelech said to Isaac, 'Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.' Then Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there. And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them."

Now, what can we learn from this text? We notice that something had happened to the original condition of the wells (i.e. the Philistines had stopped them up). So, they needed to be restored to their original condition. Whenever Isaac dug these wells again, notice that he also "called them by the names which his father had called them." This is an example of restoring these wells to their original condition. If he had dug wells in a different location and called them by different names, they would not have been the same as the original wells. However, Isaac's actions demonstrate true restoration!

Restoring the temple

In both 2 Chronicles 24 and 2 Kings 12, we learn of the attempt King Joash made to restore the temple. There was a need to repair the temple of God in Jerusalem that King Joash recognized. So, he set his heart on making the necessary repairs. 2 Chronicles 24:4 says, "Now it happened after this that Joash set his heart on repairing the house of the Lord." Furthermore, 2 Chronicles 24:12-13 describes the work of restoring the temple of the Lord to its original condition: "The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who did the work of the service of the house of the Lord; and they hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the Lord, and also those who worked in iron and bronze to restore the house of the Lord. So the workmen labored, and the work was completed by them; they restored the house of God to its original condition and reinforced it."

What can we learn from this text? We see that Joash recognized that there was a need to restore the temple. Read both 2 Chronicles 24:7 and 2 Kings 12:4-8 (parallel accounts of the story) to see that the temple had been damaged. So, it needed to be returned to its

original condition. Please understand that the only way for restoration to take place is to first realize the need for restoration! The text also very clearly indicates that the restoration of the temple was only accomplished when it was returned to its original condition. Understand that if Joash had given instructions for the workers to make it into a different type of structure, true restoration would not have taken place (even though it may have been *reformed* or *improved* from its damaged condition)!

Restoring true worship in Judah

Next, consider the work of King Josiah in restoring true worship in Judah. The basis of the restoration King Josiah made is recorded in 2 Kings 23:3: "Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant." Throughout 2 Kings 23, then, you can read about the efforts Josiah made to restore true worship in Judah.

Consider this brief summary of Josiah's work: All elements of idol worship were removed from the temple of the Lord and were burned. All the priests who were involved in burning incense to idols were removed. All the wooden images, ritual booths, priests, and high places that were involved in idolatry were removed/destroyed from the land. Horses that were dedicated to the sun by the kings of Judah were removed. He executed idolatrous priests and burned their bones upon their own altars. He restored the practice of keeping the Passover (as God had commanded). Those who consulted mediums and spirits were put away. The household gods, idols, and all the abominations in the land of Judah were put away. After this work was done, consider what was said about him in 2 Kings 23:25: "Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him."

What can we learn from this example? Let's begin in 2 Kings 22 – as it explains how all his work began (i.e. why Josiah began this restoration to true worship in Judah). During the reign of King Josiah in Judah, the book containing the Law of God was found in the temple! Previously it had been lost. However, those in Judah had continued to practice a form of

religion during this time! Yet, without the Law of God, they would not follow God's instructions. Then, after the book containing the Law of God was found, its words were read to King Josiah.

Consider Josiah's response to hearing these words in 2 Kings 22:10-13: "Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, 'Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.' And Shaphan read it before the king. Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, 'Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.'"

Clearly, all the actions taken by King Josiah were based on hearing the commandments of God – and realizing that they had not been keeping His commandments! So, whatever restoration is to be accomplished today, it must begin at this same point: The desire to do God's will completely! 2 Kings 22:2 also records this important statement about Josiah: "And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left." This is necessary in order to restore *anything* to the way God has intended! The slightest change of something either to the right hand or to the left does *not* result in a true restoration!

Restoring the walls of Jerusalem

The final example for us to consider is from Nehemiah. The entire book of Nehemiah presents excellent examples of restoration. The context of the book deals with some people from Judah returning to Jerusalem after being taken into captivity. When they returned, they found that there was much work to do to restore the city to its original condition. The first task taken up by Nehemiah was to restore the walls around the city of Jerusalem. The account of this restoration, then, begins with Nehemiah's desire to go and rebuild Jerusalem. Nehemiah 2:5 records Nehemiah's request to the king: "And I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it.'"

Following Nehemiah's return to Jerusalem, Nehemiah 2:12-16 records his work to observe the damage that had been done to the city. Nehemiah 2:17-18 records Nehemiah's report to the people and their response: "Then I said to them, 'You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.' And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. So they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' Then they set their hands to this good work."

The following chapters record how the work was accomplished through the diligent work of the people. Read through all the names in chapter 3 to see how everyone was working to do what they could do. Chapter 4 describes how they continued their work despite being forced to fight against those who opposed the work. Consider the statement made in Nehemiah 4:6: "So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work." Then, consider what was said as the work of rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem was completed. Nehemiah 6:15-16: "So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God."

Again, what can we learn from this example? We observe that all of the work of restoration begins with a realization that there is work that needs to be done! Their work began with Nehemiah recognizing that the current condition of Jerusalem was not like its previous condition. Then, he worked to inspire others to help him accomplish the restoration! We also learn that diligence is required in order to accomplish any work well. There was diligence with Nehemiah and with those who were helping him. They were even so dedicated to accomplishing the work that they overcame all of the opposition that they faced. Ultimately, when the work was accomplished, those who opposed the work (the enemies of God) were disheartened and the work was perceived to have been the work of God!

Why Restoration Is Needed Today

The first step in restoration is recognizing the need! This fact has been demonstrated in the examples we have just discussed. So, I want to allow the Bible to help us understand why the current condition of religion or so-called “Christianity” in the world is *not* pleasing to God! When we realize these things, we’ll be in a position to choose to restore New Testament Christianity!

Consider some facts

Take a moment to consider some basic facts with me. First, consider the fact that there are tens of thousands of religious organizations in the world today. This is not just true whenever all the “world religions” (i.e. Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, etc.) are taken into account. But, this is also true of so-called “Christian” religions! There are tens of thousands of different so-called “Christian” churches and denominations. Here are just a few: Catholic Church, Baptist Church, Methodist Church, Lutheran Church, Apostolic Church, Wesleyan Church, Pentecostal Church, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Presbyterian Church, etc. Then, there are divisions within many of these denominational churches themselves. In addition, there are many so-called “nondenominational” churches that also exist.

Second, consider the fact that each one of these different so-called “Christian” churches believe, teach, and practice their so-called “Christianity” differently. That’s what makes them separate organizations! Think about it. If they all practiced their so-called “Christianity” in the same way, they would not need to be divided from one another! But, on just about every prominent Bible subject, you can find some point of disagreement within the world of so-called “Christian” churches. So, the Baptist Church does not believe, teach, or practice the same kind of so-called “Christianity” as the Catholic Church. The Lutheran Church does not believe, teach, or practice the same kind of so-called “Christianity” as the Presbyterian Church. The Methodist Church does not believe, teach, or practice the same kind of so-called “Christianity” as the Apostolic Church. And so it goes throughout the world of what is called “Christendom.”

What does the Bible say?

So, we have briefly considered some of the facts regarding the religious world today. But, what does the Bible say? First, the Bible says that there is only one faith. Ephesians 4:5 identifies that there is only “one faith.” This phrase “one faith” does *not* mean that we must all simply believe in Jesus. Instead, this phrase means that there is only one system of religion that is acceptable to God!

Consider how the phrase “the faith” is used in Acts 6:7: “Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.” The faith was something that individuals could be obedient to. It was *not* just some intellectual acknowledgement of certain things as being true! Instead, these priests were obedient to “the faith” whenever they listened to and obeyed God’s instructions!

Also consider Philippians 1:27: “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” This text explains that “the faith” is “of the gospel.” So, as you consider all three of these passages (along with other Bible passages), it should be clear that there is only one system of religious belief, teaching, and practice that is approved of God, revealed in the pages of the New Testament!

Second, the Bible says that all of God’s followers are to be united in this one faith. Since there is only one faith that is revealed in the pages of the gospel’s message, God expects all those who claim to follow Him to be united in this “one faith.” Consider the following passages that clearly demonstrate this truth.

John 17:20-23: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

1 Corinthians 1:10: “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no

divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

The division that I described a few moments ago (with the tens of thousands of different so-called “Christian” churches) simply goes against these clear Bible teachings! Instead, God wants people to “stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27).

Everyone can't be right!

The Bible perfectly reveals the will of God to mankind. There is only one Bible containing God's instructions – and there are no contradictions in the Bible. Yet, mankind believes, teaches, and practices many conflicting things! There is only one possible conclusion, then: Everyone can't be right!

Those who teach that there is no God *cannot* be just as right as those who teach that there is one true and living God. Those who teach that baptism is unnecessary for salvation *cannot* be just as right as those who teach that baptism is necessary for salvation. Those who teach that homosexuality is not a sin *cannot* be just as right as those who teach that homosexuality is sinful. Those who teach that an individual is once saved always saved *cannot* be just as right as those who teach that an individual can fall from God's grace! The Bible simply does not teach all sides of the same issue! If it did, it would contain contradictions and errors. However, since it is perfect, we must conclude that it is mankind who has made many errors – and cannot be right whenever he goes against the teachings of Scripture!

Will you work to restore New Testament Christianity?

The fact is that there are many false gospels promoted by false teachers. Consider the following Bible passages that demonstrate this to be true (just as it was true in the first century, A.D.).

Galatians 1:6-9: “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”

2 Peter 2:1-3: “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.”

As you observe the nature of the religious world (and specifically your own religious beliefs and practices) you must make a choice! Will you work to restore New Testament Christianity, recognizing that anything besides New Testament Christianity is not pleasing to God? Or, will you ignore the teachings of Scripture and settle for a *form* of religion (just as the Israelites had done when they had lost the book of God's law)?

The Restoration Plea

If you are interested in restoring New Testament Christianity (as I hope you are), you may be wondering how that great task can be accomplished. As you think about this, keep in mind how those we have studied about accomplished their purposes of restoration: They recognized the need, dedicated themselves to accomplishing the mission, and then put in the work to go back to the original! Today, I believe that there are some basic pleas those who are interested in restoring New Testament Christianity will be making. Let's observe.

“Book, chapter, and verse”

All the false teaching in the religious world has come from acting without Bible authority! The Bible is perfect – and is the only sufficient guide to tell us how to live in a way that pleases God! After all, it is the word of God that will be the criteria for our judgment on the Last Day (John 12:48; Revelation 20:11-15). We must, then, demand Bible authority (book, chapter, and verse) for everything we believe, teach, and practice in order to be pleasing to God! If a belief, teaching, or practice is *not* authorized by the Scriptures, we must reject it. However, if a belief, teaching, or practice is found in the Scriptures (found in the law we live under today), we are authorized to practice it.

“Speak where the Bible speaks; be silent where the Bible is silent”

Too many problems in the religious world have come from either speaking where the Bible has not spoken or being silent where the Bible speaks. Many churches and religious organizations even have “creed books” containing their church’s/organization’s own doctrine. However, the Scriptures command that we do not *add to* or *take away from* God’s word! Revelation 22:18-19 says: “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” So, if we add to the word of God, we say too much – and if we take away from God’s word, we say too little!

“Call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways”

The majority of so-called “Christian” churches today have introduced new practices into their churches that are entirely foreign to the teachings of the Bible. They no longer speak the language of Scripture. Instead, they often speak the language of the world or of their own religious tradition! They also do not look to God’s word as a pattern in all areas (as 2 Timothy 1:13 instructs us to “Hold fast the pattern of sound words...”). Instead, they are content to do things according to their own thoughts or traditions. However, our plea must simply be to speak as the oracles/utterances of God (1 Peter 4:11). This involves using the language that God uses – and doing things the way He instructs. You must beware of those who fail to do this!

Are You Interested In Restoring New Testament Christianity?

New Testament Christianity is *entirely* patterned after the instructions and examples found in the New Testament! So, New Testament Christianity will reject any traditions and doctrines that originate with man – and that contradict the teachings of God’s word! But,

are you really interested in restoring New Testament Christianity?

The importance of New Testament Christianity

Why should you practice New Testament Christianity? Because God’s word will judge you on the Last Day! In John 12:48, Jesus says, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” Revelation 20:12 describes the Judgment scene: “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

These books are the books that contain God’s laws. So, your eternal salvation will depend upon whether you have been obedient to God’s instructions! Those who do not obey the gospel of Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9) while those who obey God will be saved (Hebrews 5:9)! So, it should be clear that no other kind of “Christianity” will result in salvation. The traditions and teachings of men won’t be the standard by which you will be judged! Therefore, if you have followed them, while rejecting the commandments of the Lord, you will be eternally condemned!

Becoming a New Testament Christian

Please understand that God’s word will only produce one kind of Christian! In Luke 8:11, the word of God is compared to a seed that is sown in the hearts of men and women. Well, it is a basic rule of agriculture that each seed produces after its own kind (since that’s the way God designed it, Genesis 1:11-12). So, when you plant corn, you expect to reap corn. You would never expect to plant corn and reap tomatoes! Now, suppose that we were to preserve corn seed planted in Tyler County, WV, this spring and plant it in Africa 2,000 years from now.... If the climate and soil conditions were right, what would it produce? It would produce the same kind of corn that was harvested in West Virginia in the fall!

In the same way, when the original seed of the word of God is planted in honest and good hearts in any community and age, it will produce Christians identical with those we read about in the New Testament! It will *not* produce any other kind of “Christian.” It will not produce a Catholic, a Baptist, a Lutheran, a Methodist, a Presbyterian, etc., etc., etc.,!

In order to make any of these, there must be a different kind of seed planted (besides just the pure seed of God's word)! How do I know this is true? Because none of these religious organizations existed in the New Testament – and because many of their teachings do not agree with the New Testament!

You will only be a New Testament Christian if you give yourself to obeying the instructions of God *entirely*! Like Josiah, you must turn to the Lord with all of your heart, soul, and might – determining not to turn away from God's commandments either to the right hand or to the left!

You must obey the gospel's plan of salvation in order to become a New Testament Christian! God has simply required you to: (1) Hear His word. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (2) Believe. John 8:24 says, "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (3) Repent of your sins. Acts 17:30 says, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent." (4) Confess Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10 says, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (5) Be immersed in water (baptized). Acts 2:38 says, "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Practicing New Testament Christianity

Then, upon obeying the gospel's plan of salvation (that we've just considered), you are forgiven of your sins, you become a Christian, and God adds you to His church. In Acts 2, those who wanted to know what they needed to do in order to be saved were told to repent and be baptized (verse 38). Later, after Peter continued preaching to them, about 3,000 people were obedient to the gospel's requirements for salvation. Acts 2:41 says, "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them." Also notice the language of verse 47: "praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

Which church does God add people to whenever they become Christians by obeying His plan of salvation? Is it the Baptist Church? The Catholic

Church? The Methodist Church? The Presbyterian Church? The Pentecostal Church? Not at all! God never adds people to a man-made church. Instead, He only adds people to the church that belongs to Him! Jesus said, in Matthew 16:18, "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Those who become New Testament Christians by obeying the instructions in the New Testament for salvation are added to the church of Christ (the church that belongs to Christ)! This is the one true church you can read about in the pages of the New Testament.

Then, after you become a New Testament Christian and are added to Jesus' one true church, God requires you to be faithful to Him unto death. Revelation 2:10 says, "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." He expects you to live your life according to His instructions. Furthermore, He desires for you to join yourself to a local church of Christ that is practicing New Testament Christianity! In all things, consider Colossians 3:17 as a summary of how God expects you to conduct your life: "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Everything you do must be done "in the name of" (by the authority of) Jesus Christ!

To fail to live your life according to the instructions God has given in the New Testament (the standard we live under today) is to fail to live in a way that is pleasing to God and puts your soul in great danger. Consider the consequences of failing to be obedient to God's instructions that are identified in the pages of the New Testament (the gospel), as recorded in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9: "and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."

Conclusion

Will you attempt to restore New Testament Christianity in your own life – and then help influence others to do the same? This lesson has not attempted to address all the areas in which error has been taught or practiced. Instead, I have simply attempted to make you aware of the general need to restore New Testament Christianity. I encourage you to search the Bible every day in order to learn what New Testament Christianity looks like! For, Jesus warns that many religious people (even professing “Christians”) will be condemned to Hell on the Day of Judgment because they will not obey God (see Matthew 7:21-23)! So, what about you? Will you seek and follow the way of God that has been outlined in the pages of the New Testament – or will you try to live another way?

Study Questions

What does it mean to “restore” something?

1. Biblical Examples Of Restoration

What do you learn from Isaac about restoration?

What do you learn from King Joash about restoration?

What do you learn from King Josiah about restoration?

What do you learn from Nehemiah about restoration?

2. Why Restoration Is Needed Today

What are some basic facts about religion and “Christianity” in the world today?

What does the Bible say about the facts you’ve just discussed?

Can everyone be right? Explain why or why not?

Will you work to restore New Testament Christianity? Explain your reasoning.

3. The Restoration Plea

Discuss how each of the following pleas will help restore New Testament Christianity.

“Book, chapter, and verse.” –

“Speak where the Bible speaks; be silent where the Bible is silent.” –

“Call Bible things by Bible names and do Bible things in Bible ways.” –

4. Are You Interested In Restoring New Testament Christianity?

Why is New Testament Christianity important?

How do you become a New Testament Christian?

How do you practice New Testament Christianity?