

Instructions for Church Restoration

(Acts 17:24-32)

Have you ever considered what we are missing in the church, compared to countries like China, where there is Christian persecution even in the New Testament church? The church that Jesus intends us to have is a mystical body that is directly under His control and filled with people who are fully committed to the Savoir.

Shrine Worshippers?

When we walk through our cities, we see, as Paul did in Athens (Acts 17:24-32), multiple “statues” which we call churches. These churches have names of great men such as Luther, Calvin, Menno Simons, John Knox, John the Baptist, Charles Wesley, D.L. Moody, and many more. Within these buildings, people gather who follow the biblical insights of these great men, but the Bible says:

“No prophesy of Scripture is of any private interpretation.... The Lord who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And He is not served by human hands...” (II Peter 1:20, 24-25).

Wrong Basis?

Many people have sacrificed to build these “statues” and, in all sincerity, have built churches based on men’s interpretations of Scripture. The Bible, however, so clearly warns us that “*we cannot build on any foundation than Jesus Christ*” (I Corinthians 3:11). God is more pleased with obedience than by men’s sacrifices (I Samuel 15:22). Scripture furthermore teaches us:

“Do not go beyond what is written. Then you will not take pride in one man over against another”(I Corinthians 4:6).

We Must Repent

In the Bible we read the following:

“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice” (vs. 30, 31).

In many circles, “repenting” is an unacceptable word. We seek salvation without repentance; we claim spiritual fullness without holiness, and now we hope to see church renewal without repentance. What about confession and repentance?

Prepare for that Day

Obviously, our system of seeking to serve God in man-made cathedrals has come to an end. We are living in the end times, and of this Jesus said *those who are truly seeking God must do so in Spirit and truth (vs. 30, 31; Acts 4:24)*. In this sense, truth means gathering as believers on God’s terms and in obedience to Scripture.

Results

When God’s work is done His way, we can expect a New Testament Church: a church where prayers are answered; where transformation take place; where elders are led by God as they hear His voice; where life, unity, and love are present. Such miracles make believers enthusiastic about their faith and encourage their constant witnessing for Him.

Jesus' Instructions for His Church:

- Jesus warned the religious leaders not to hang on to traditions but to His Word, for not doing so, would nullify the Word of God (Matthew 15:3, 7).
- Jesus instructed us that He would build His church and that God is not pleased to dwell in houses built by men (Acts 17:24).
- Jesus said that He would be our spiritual leader and that we should have no confidence in men (Matthew 6:24; Galatians 1:10), nor to be seeking self but seeking his Kingdom growth (Matthew 6:33).
- Jesus instructed us to come together as believers and not merely as members of a denomination (Hebrew 10:25; II Corinthians 6:14-17).
- Jesus encouraged believers to come together in His name (Matthew 18:20) and promised that He would be in their midst.
- Jesus warned those who would meet without Him would soon scatter (Matthew 12:30).
- Jesus promised that when He is lifted up, He would draw people to himself (John 12:32).
- Jesus wanted His Spirit to guide His church (Ephesians 4:11) in all things and equip those who serve with ministry gifts.
- Jesus requires godly elders to lead His church—men who would fulfill biblical requirements (Titus 1:5-16).
- Jesus wanted our money to be used first as a means to reach out to the needy and to those who never have heard (Matthew 28:19).
- Jesus wanted pastors to be servant-shepherds to the flock (Acts 20:28), not CEO's, nor seekers of human exaltation (Matthew 23:9). Pastors are to feed the flock and lead God's people into spiritual maturity and discipleship.
- Jesus wanted us to be led by multiple leadership according to various gifts that the Spirit would bestow upon those within His church (Matthew 4:19; Ephesians 4:11).
- Jesus warned us about the danger of hiring outsiders for ministry (John 10:13). We also must be careful of those who peddle the Word of God for profit (II Corinthians 2:17).
- Jesus warned us that no one could serve two masters (Matthew 6:19). Today many a pastor caters to the denomination, the congregation, and also to God? (Galatians 1:10).
- Jesus warned us not to store up treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19); many have stored up large sums in buildings and commercial religious systems while millions have never heard.

