

# BACK TO THE BIBLE

2 Chronicles 34:14-15

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. Consider JOSIAH in the Old Testament:
  - 1. He was the son of Amon, a very wicked king of Judah.
  - 2. However, Josiah wanted to do right and set about with some drastic reforms during his reign.
  - 3. These reforms came about in three stages.
  - 4. In the third stage of these reforms, Josiah ordered the Temple to be restored and a Book of the Law (of Moses) was discovered, **2 Chronicles 34:14-15**.
  - 5. When it was read to Josiah, he was horrified (**Verse 19**) to learn how far Judah had departed from the law of God. This discovery provided a new momentum for the reformation that was already in progress. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
  - 6. Using what was found in the Law, even greater reforms took place during the latter reign of Josiah.
- D. We can learn a lesson from Josiah and go back to God's law and make necessary reforms.
  - 1. It is not difficult to look around and see many denominations who teach different doctrines from one another.
  - 2. How did this take place? Because of a departure from following only the Bible in religious matters.
- E. We should be horrified to find such religious division and seek to go back to the Bible.

## I. WHY IS THERE A NEED TO GO BACK TO THE BIBLE?

- A. It is so easy to *DRIFT AWAY*, **Hebrews 2:1**.
  - 1. Give heed: prosecho (pros-ekh'-o); pay attention to, be cautious about, apply oneself to, adhere to. (Strong's Dict)
  - 2. Lest we drift away (slip - KJV): pararrhuego (par-ar-hroo-eh'-o); "*to flow past, glide by*" is used in <Heb. 2:1>, where the significance is to find oneself "*flowing*" or "*passing by,*" without giving due heed to a thing, (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)
  - 3. If we don't constantly go back to the Bible to make sure we are doing God's will, we could easily drift away.
- B. It is easy to *FORGET*, **2 Peter 1:9**.
  - 1. Peter wrote of some who had forgotten that they had been cleansed from their old sins, 2 Pet 1:9.
    - a. How could one forget such a thing? He forgets because he is no longer influenced by such recollection.
    - b. "Having received or accepted forgetfulness."

2. It is easy to forget what you have learned if you do not make efforts to remember it.
  3. **EXAMPLES:** how many of you USED to know all the *state capitals* or all the *presidents in order*? Did you forget because you no longer studied them?
- C. It is *COMMON* to depart from God, **1 Timothy 4:1-3**.
1. How many times did *ISRAEL* forsake God in the Old Testament?
  2. Paul predicted that there would be a departing from the ways of God, 1 Tim 4.
  3. That is exactly what occurred in the centuries after Paul's prediction.
- D. We need to go back to the Bible because we *CANNOT PROPERLY DIRECT OURSELVES*, **Jeremiah 10:23**. "It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps."

## II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO GO BACK TO THE BIBLE?

- A. Accept the Bible as the *INSPIRED* Word of God, **2 Timothy 3:16,17**.
1. Theopneustos (theh-op'-nyoo-stos); divinely breathed in:
  2. (Theos, "God," pneo, to breathe"), is used in <2 Tim. 3:16>, of the Scriptures as distinct from non-inspired writings. (from Vine's Exp Dict)
- B. Accept the Bible as our ONLY SOURCE OF AUTHORITY.
1. FALSE SOURCES:
    - a. Feelings "What I think" or "What I want."
    - b. Customs - "Old Time Religion"
    - c. Family traditions.
    - d. Religious creeds
  2. We must view the Bible as OUR ONLY RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE.
- C. Accept the Bible as the *TRUE BASIS OF UNITY*.
1. Jesus prayed for the unity of the believers, **John 17:20**.
  2. Many are advocating *FALSE UNITY*; ignoring religious differences and unity on belief in Jesus.
  3. The only real unity that could possibly exist would come when the Word of God was accepted as the sole standard of authority.
- D. Recognize the Bible as the *STANDARD* by which we will be *JUDGED*.
1. "in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel." **Romans 2:16** (NKJ)
  2. "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." **John 12:48**.
  3. "And 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." **Revelation 20:12**. In addition to the Book of Life, I must feel that the Bible is going to be one of those books opened.

### **III. BY GOING BACK TO THE BIBLE WE CAN RESTORE NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY IN THE 21st CENTURY.**

- A. In the early days of our country, there was a movement that started in different areas at about the same time that attempted to do just that.
  - 1. James O'Kelley in Virginia in the 1790's.
  - 2. Elias Smith and Abner Jones movements in New England, early 1800's.
  - 3. Barton W. Stone, Kentucky in early 1800's.
  - 4. Thomas and Alexander Campbell (from Scotland) in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia in early 1800's.
- B. How did they make such a difference and start the fires of what we call the Restoration Movement? By simply going back to the Bible.
- C. That is all we are trying to do in the Church of Christ today — avoid every human creed and take the New Testament as our only rule of faith and practice.
- D. Won't you join us in this?

#### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. Won't you go back to the Bible by coming to God this morning?
- B. Will you obey the simple NT Plan of Salvation. Consider the words of Jesus:
  - John 8:24
  - Luke 13:3
  - Matthew 10:32-33
  - Mark 16:15-16
- C. Will you come to God today?

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