

RESTORE THE WANDERER

Int.

1. Aim: To show what Christians must do in helping to restore the erring ones.
2. James 5:19 "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;
 - a. "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, (NKJV)
 - b. Wander instead of err
3. Christians can sin
 - a. 1 Cor. 10:12 NKJV "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."
 - b. Once saved always saved is a false doctrine and is very dangerous
 - i. Calvinism teaches this doctrine
 - ii. False - because the scriptures and life show that it is not true
 - iii. Dangerous - because some feel they can live in sin and automatically be forgiven
4. Problem in the church - Christians often wander away from the church, or are overtaken in sin
 - a. May attend church spasmodically during this time
 - b. But they never do anything about coming back to the Lord - they are never restored but just start back attending and act as if nothing ever happened.
5. What does the Bible teach about being Restored?

Discussion

I. WHY BE RESTORED ?

A. They are lost in sin

1. James 5:19-20 NKJV "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."

- a. Brethren = members
- b. Wanders (Errs) from truth = sin, any sin
- c. Save a soul from death = implies that he will be lost if he does not convert him!

2. If an erring - wandering - child of God continues in sin he will be lost!

- a. Rev. 3:5 NKJV " "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."
- b. The person who is overcome of sin and does not repent will have his name blotted out of the book of life
- c. He will be lost!!!

B. Sin must be forgiven not forgotten

1. Men like to forget about their sins

- a. When we have been forgiven we can forget them
- b. It is God who needs to forget, but only after we have obeyed His Commands
- c. Heb 10:17 "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

2. But as a wandering Christian we are not to sin and then just continue as if nothing ever happened
 - a. Maybe in time the members of the church will forget
 - b. It may have been years ago, but still you have not followed God's plan for being restored or forgiven.
3. It is just as essential to follow God's plan of forgiveness of a sinful Christian as it is to obey God's plan for an alien sinner.
4. Man's way is not God's way:
 - a. A Christian sins - lives in sin and often forsakes the assembly for long periods of time.
 - b. Begins to start back attending the service - after a period of time he is considered as a faithful child of God. He has been on what we might call probation.
 - c. Then after so long he starts taking the Lord's Supper again and considers himself sin free once again.
 - d. S + T = F
 - e. Sin = Sin T = Time F = Forgiveness
5. This is not God's way and if we follow it then many souls will be lost!!
6. What is God's way for being restored ?

II. GOD'S WAY OF BEING RESTORED

A. Restored

1. Gal. 6:1 "Restore" - repair, adjust, mend To strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be. One who by correction may be brought back into the right way."
2. James 5:19 "Convert him" To turn about, turn towards
 - a. When a person firsts obeys God, it is a conversion - Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;"
 - b. When a person who is a child of God, wanders from the truth and returns, he returns or is converted:
 - (1) Err = to roam, go astray, wander, be out of the way
 - (2) He needs to turn because he is pointed in the wrong direction
 - (3) A sin unto death is one from which a person will not turn
 - (a) 1 John 5:16 " If any man see his brother sin a sin [which is] not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."
 - (b) 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- (4) Peter was an apostle, he had been following Jesus, but he needed to be converted - Luke 22:31-32 "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired [to have] you, that he may sift [you] as wheat: 32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

B. God's plan of being restored - Repentance, Confession, and Prayer

1. Repentance

- a. He told the ones at Ephesus to Repent - Rev. 2:5
- b. Acts 8:22 "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."
- c. Repent = a change of mind which causes one to turn from sin and turn to God!
- d. It is Godly sorrow

2. Confession of sin

- a. 1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. God forgives every child of God who has genuinely repented and has admitted his sin
- c. Those who stumble and fall can only be forgiven by confession
- d. If the heart is penitent - the confession will follow
- e. Those words "I have sinned" are difficult words to say, but we must say them in order to be forgiven!!! Luke 15:21 "Father I have sinned"
- f. Public confession is not degrading:
 - (1) It shows humility on the part of the sinner
 - (2) It asks the forgiveness of the brethren
 - (3) It will help all to realize that sin is a serious thing

- g. Should every sin be confessed publicly?
- (1) No - if so it would be quite lengthy
 - (2) Public sin - no more public sin can be committed than failing to assemble with the saints to worship.
 - (3) Not a confessional - not necessary to tell every little detail - if it is public sin then the congregation will know.
 - (4) Luke 15:21 just says "I have sinned." Not a list of sin
- h. We must be willing and ready to confess our sins
- (1) Not "If I have sinned"
 - (2) No guessing game - you know whether you have or have not sinned!!

3. Prayer

- a. Acts 8:22 "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."
- b. 1 John 2:1-2
- (1) Written that we not sin
 - (2) Advocate = lawyer or attorney who represents us - Jesus represents us in heaven
 - (3) Propitiation - render favorable - brings God and man together
 - (4) If we do sin - we have Christ who is our advocate - Obey Him
- c. James 5:16 "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
- d. Forgiven - he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins - 1 Jn. 1:9

C. Results - James 5:19-20

1. Shall save
 - a. Not by his power
 - b. But is an instrument in the salvation by teaching
2. A soul from death
 - a. Not physical death Heb. 9:27
 - b. But spiritual death, separation from God Rev. 20:14 21:8 2 Thes.1:7-9
3. Shall hide
 - a. God is said to forgive, to remember no more, to cover, to remove as far as the East is from the West our sins
 - b. Our sin is completely removed
4. A multitude of sins
 - a. His sins - 1 Jn. 1:9
 - b. Those who would have followed his example - Gal. 5:9
 - c. Our sins had we not gone to him - Gal. 6:1 Lk. 17:3 Ezk. 33:8,9
 - d. Those who would have followed our indifference - Matt. 15:14

III. AN EXAMPLE OF BEING RESTORED - Acts 8

A. Simon's obedience to Gospel

1. Acts 8:5 - Philip was preaching in Samaria
2. Simon was a sorcerer - witchcraft - trickery
3. Acts 8:13 "Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done."

4. Peter and John came to give the people the Holy Spirit

B. Simon's sin

1. Acts 8:18-19 = "And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost."
2. He offered money - Peter's rebuke and advice to Simon
3. Acts 8:20-23 "If perhaps" = if it be possible or since it is possible
4. His former sins were forgiven
5. He now committed another sin and Peter told him to repent of it.

C. Simon's Request

1. Acts 8:24 NKJV "Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."
2. He realized he sinned
3. Pray ye to the Lord for me
4. Admission of his sin
5. He had humility
6. He knew it was an urgent matter - he didn't wait but took action immediately !!

IV. YOU WHO ARE SPIRITUAL

Gal. 6:1 ESV “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual, should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.”

A. Ye who are spiritual

1. The spiritual ones, more mature, life that is motivated by the Spirit
2. Those who are faithful, those who walk by the Spirit
3. The spiritual man is to do the restoring.

B. Restore

1. A word that means to knit together
2. To repair, mend, to set them aright.
3. It is a word that denotes an action which requires skill
4. To restore means to bring to a former state, in which they once lived.

C. In a spirit of meekness “Gentleness” in ASV

1. This is one of the fruits of the spirit - Gal. 5:23
2. The erring one is to be dealt with gently - not harshly - attitude of love
3. Attempts to restore must be based upon genuine love and brotherly consideration - not with a spirit of arrogance that we are better

D. Considering your self

1. This is the basis for being gentle
2. The spiritual person must recognize that it is possible for himself to be tempted and to fall, as has his erring brother.
3. He must deal with his brother in consideration of how he would want himself to be treated if he was the erring one.

Conclusion

1. The wandering [erring] Christian needs to be restored
 - a. They are outside the fold. If they should die in this condition they would be lost eternally.
 - b. In worse condition 2 Pet. 2:20-21 - entangled again, worse, proverb about dog
 - c. God's will provides for a "restoration" and we should be grateful that it is so.
2. Many of those who have been overtaken can be reached and restored.
 - a. We must be concerned about our erring brothers and sisters
 - b. We must make every possible effort to restore them.
3. It may be that some of you are erring Christians. You need to be restored !!!
 - a. It should be done today !
 - b. No need to wait
 - c. Repent of those sins
 - d. Be willing to confess that you've sinned
 - e. Pray to God and We'll pray to God for you that he will forgive you of your sins !
4. Illustration - - In sliders $S + T = F$
5. Why not be restored to God now ?
6. Then bring forth fruits of repentance
 - a. Cease sinful actions
 - b. Begin living faithfully