

It is Time to Renovate the Church

2 Chronicles 29:1-5

1 Hezekiah began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done.

3 He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the Lord, and repaired them.

4 And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street, 5 And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.

Introduction

Spring is in the air. The trees and grass are greening up and the bluebonnets are in full bloom. When I was young there was a word that always followed the “Spring...cleaning.” Spring cleaning is what happens after humans have been shut indoors for a few months, and the accumulation of stuff reaches its “I have to do something” point.

Often during the spring cleaning, renovations are made. I know when you look at the title of this message, you might be scratching your head. You could be thinking of things that you know are in need of repair or replacement or to be taken out to the trash.

On our annual cleanup day, we normally have a big list of all the projects that need to be taken care of and we typically do one of the following:

- 1) There are some things that are broken that need to be repaired.
- 2) There are some things that are missing that need to be replaced
- 3) There are some things that don't belong that need to be removed.

Some of you may be thinking about the last financial report and our current budget. Let me put you at ease, there is no financial cost for this upcoming renovation. My point is that our church needs a spiritual “spring cleaning” and a spiritual renovation.

Looking at the spiritual condition of the Church in America, we see a diminished version of what it once was. The church is a mere shadow of influence that forged the United States of America. In most cases, the Church is neglected, having no power and therefore falling into disarray. While we all would agree that it is the Lord’s Church ... “the body of Christ” has many issues that must be addressed. We can’t fix churches in other states, or in Dallas, or Ft. Worth, or Austin or even those within 10 miles of our location. This church, Keys Valley Baptist Church is the only one that we can do anything about. And as members of this local assembly it is our responsibility to ensure that we are where God would have us to be... doing exactly what He would have us to do!

Therefore, if:

...there are things that are broken, it is our duty to repair them.

...there are things that are missing, it is our duty to replace them.

...there are things that don’t belong, it is our duty to remove them.

For that reason, “It Is Time To Renovate The Church!

History

1 Hezekiah began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.

Our passage centers on Hezekiah, the 14th king over Judah (considering David and Solomon) and the 12th of the Southern Kingdom. His mother was the daughter of the OT prophet Zechariah. His reign began when he was 25 years old at the death of his father Ahaz. His father’s reign is spoken of in the Bible as, “Ahaz...did not that which was right in the sight of the LORD his God, like David his father” (2 Kings 16: 2 Chronicles 28:1).

King Ahaz sacrificed to other gods.

2 Chronicles 28:22-25 And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the LORD: this is that king Ahaz. 23 For he sacrificed unto the gods of Damascus, which smote him: and he said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them, that they may help me. But they were the ruin of him, and of all Israel. 24 And

Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God, and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem. 25 And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers.

This is the condition of the land when Hezekiah began to reign.

Hezekiah Remembers the LORD

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done.

Hezekiah began his reign with a flourish. He

- restored the Temple and the sacrificial system
- reorganized the Priests and reestablished their duties
- tore down the altars and high places of the nation's idol worship.

Where or where to begin

3 In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them.

First things first. Restore the house of the LORD (the Temple in Jerusalem). His father, Ahaz, “shut up the doors of the house of the LORD (28:24). No one was allowed to worship at the Temple. By opening the doors to the Temple, the priests could return and worship as outlined in the Law could be restored.

Second, restore the priests and their duties.

He brought in the priests and the Levites and assembled them in the square on the east and said to them, “Hear me, Levites! Now consecrate yourselves, and consecrate the house of the Lord, the God of your fathers

When the priests have lost their way, it is time to refocus on the importance of the commandments of God. The priests and Levites were to consecrate themselves to the work of the Lord.

Now that the Temple is in repair and the priests are working for the glory of God, it is time to

Third, clean up the Temple.

...carry out the filth from the Holy Place.

The “*filth from the Holy Place*” in the Holies and the Holy of Holies were found objects of idolatry that had taken the place of the table of Showbread, the golden Lampstand and the altar of Incense. These had been replaced with pagan objects of worship installed during the reign of Ahaz. It took them 8 days to clean the Holy Place. It took 16 days from the beginning of the repair to the final cleansing. All the items were to be removed and burned in the Kidron Valley (2 Chron. 29:16).

All told, Hezekiah was king in Jerusalem for 29 years.

Conclusion

Hezekiah first looked to restoring the worship of God for the Nation of Judah. It was there that he found renovation was needed, even before looking at any other condition of the Southern Kingdom.

Step One – review the condition of your temple. Is your temple (your body) spiritually broken down? Hezekiah reviewed the condition of the Temple and immediately began making repairs.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

*Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
2And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (ESV)*

Our bodies are the dwelling place of the Holy Ghost. As the Temple was set aside for only the worship of God, so then should our bodies be reserved for the Holy Ghost to dwell.

Step Two - restore your life to God, as the priests did and then realign your life to the work of God. It is easy to lose our way with all the distractions of the world. We must review our lives and line them up with the duty of the Temple...to worship the LORD.

Step Three – carry out the filth from the Holy Place. We need to inventory our temple. Have we accumulated idols in our lives? Is there stuff remaining in your life from before you became a Christian. Have you been side tracked and fallen away from purity in the LORD?

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.

Bob Crowder