

An open Bible is shown from a high angle, lying flat. The pages are yellowed with age and contain dense, small text. The Bible is set against a background of a textured, mottled orange and red surface. Overlaid on the Bible is the title 'New Testament Shaped Churches' in a large, bold, yellow font.

New Testament Shaped Churches

1 Timothy: 3.14-16



Doctrine downplayed...

- Fundamentals of Christianity ...
 - Belief that Jesus saves
 - Doing nice things for others
- What really matters in a church ..
 - A warm, welcoming church
 - Emotionally moving services
 - Impact for good in community

Doctrine still matters..

- When choosing a church..
 - 1st make sure doctrine is right

Only then ..

- Is it warm and welcoming?
- Are services uplifting and edifying?
- Are they making an impact for good?

Tell me about the churches of Christ?

- What is the difference between the church of Christ and _____ ?
 - Cannot answer in official sense
 - General unity beliefs and practices

Are churches of Christ evangelical churches?

- “Evangelical” churches basic beliefs...

The Bible is literally God’s Word

- 2 Tim 3:16-17 .. 2 Pet 1:21

Salvation only through Jesus Christ

- John 14:6 .. Acts 4:12

A Christian must live a changed life

- Col 3:5-10 .. 1 Pet 1:14-16



But not just another evangelical church..

- Some significant differences..
 - Doesn't mean more sincere, devoted
 - Not more respect for Bible as God's word
 - Not claiming we are more Christ-like



A Different Goal.. Restoration

- Martin Luther .. The Reformation
 - Goal: to reform the corrupt Catholic establishment of their day
 - Luther's 95 theses (Oct 31, 1517)
- One step further... Restoration
 - Goal: restore the true church of Jesus Christ beliefs and practices of church in the N.T.
 - Not just Bible-believing but Bible-shaped

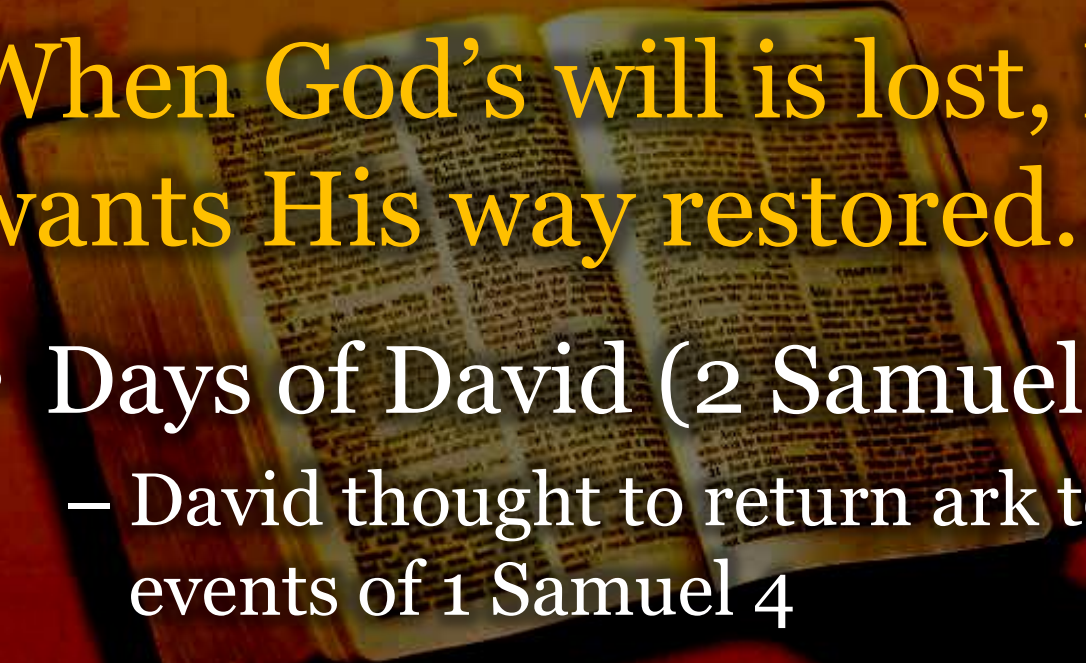


Why Restoration?..

- This idea is endorsed in the Bible..
 - God has always given His people instructions (how organized, how to worship, moral life)
 - God has always demanded obedience
 - Lev 26:14ff; Deut 30:15-20; Eccl 12:13-14
 - Matt 7:21-27; John 14:21-24)
 - People don't always obey God (some defy God, others get lost to will of God) ..

When God's will is lost, He wants His way restored..

- Days of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 8)
 - The people meet to read the law .. 1-5, 13
 - Discover Feast of tabernacles .. vs 14 (had been lost for 1000 years)
 - Their response.. Vs 15-17 (go get branches to make booths... as it is written) ...
 - “the sons of Israel had not done so from the days of Joshua ... and there was great rejoicing”



When God's will is lost, He wants His way restored..

- Days of David (2 Samuel 6)
 - David thought to return ark to Jerusalem after events of 1 Samuel 4
 - 30,000 people assembled for honor guard to bring it seven miles (2 Sam 6:1)
 - Musicians (2 Sam 6:5)
 - Brand new cart to show utmost respect (vs 3)
 - Cart hits bump, Uzzah tries to steady ark (vs 7)

When God's will is lost, He wants His way restored..

- Days of David (2 Samuel 6)
 - David gets angry (vs 8-11) .. What went wrong?
 - David gets out Bible, discovers God's instructions .. Ark to be carried by Levites (Exod 25:12-15; Numb 4:5-6,15)
 - David does it right (1 Chron 15:15:2,11-15)



New Testament contains a pattern..

- 1 Cor 14:33 all congregations of saints (who could speak in assembly)
- Acts 14:20-22 elders in each church (Phil 1:1: Acts 15:2; 20:17)
- 1 Cor 16:1-2 first day of week
- Acts 20:7 break bread first day of week
- 1 Tim 2:8 men to pray in every place

Plea for unity of believers..

- Matt 16:18 will build by church
- Romans 16:16 churches of Christ
- 1 Cor 1:10-13 let be no divisions
- John 17:20-21 pray may all be one

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