

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #9

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RESTORING THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT BY JOHN T. POLK II

**The 3 pillars of Restoration are Respect for: God's Works; God's Word; God's Will to Forgive.** The preaching of **Haggai**, **Zechariah**, and **Malachi** who referred to "the LORD Almighty" 80 times (50 of those occur in **Zechariah 1-8**) was crucial, therefore! **Great Sermons are filled with God; Great Preachers are filled with God's Word; Great Times are filled with Obedience to God.**

**True Restoration Preaching: Haggai & Zechariah and Malachi** Preached -**Ezra 5:1-2; 6:14**, but there was no new doctrine or practice revealed, only a return to the original doctrine and practice in Moses' Law. There was no attempt to find or start a church that would preach what they were already practicing; no excusing or justifying their sins so they would "feel good" and not struggle with their guilty consciences; THEY FINALLY HAD FACED GOD'S WORD!

**Haggai** appealed to the people's **CONSCIENCE Haggai 1:5** with **rebuke** ("consider your ways" **Haggai 1:2-11**), **refocus** (compare their paltry efforts with Solomon's temple glory **Haggai 2:1-9**), **review** (God Blessed them when they had obeyed but not in their disobedience **Haggai 2:10-19**), and **renewal** (once again, they should choose God's Protection **Haggai 2:20-23**). Haggai reminded them 26 times in 38 verses that his message was actually God Speaking!

**Zechariah** stressed **COOPERATION** with the admonition them "Do not be like your fathers" **1:4** and to keep looking for the promised Christ **Zechariah 6:12-13; 14:9**. His book is more Messianic than any Old Testament book, except Psalms and Isaiah. He is quoted 71 times in the New Testament, 31 of which are in **The Book of Revelation**, ALL OF WHICH WERE FULFILLED WHEN JESUS LIVED ON THE EARTH, AND IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD HE ESTABLISHED IN THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY! Zechariah had 8 visions **Zechariah 1:7-6:15** and 2 "burdens" **Zechariah chapters 9-11, 12-14** and showed that *Faith's Expectations are Great Expectations!*

**Malachi** emphasized **CONSISTENCY** with more verses (47) spoken directly to Israel than any other prophet. Their whimpering defenses for their disobedience ("Yet you say" **Malachi 1:2, 6, 7; Malachi 2:14, 17; Malachi 3:7,8,13**) are all answered by God. These are still every whine His selfish children could ever use, even in this present day! *Truly God is longsuffering to hear these same lame excuses!*

**It seems that many are more concerned with remaining faithful to the men and movement that occurred in America than they are to God, His Word, and Jesus Christ!** In Jesus' day, the Pharisees emphasized their particular interpretations and practices which they had determined made people more "righteous" than simply following God's Word. Jesus applied the truth when: "He answered and said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do. He said to them, All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition" (**Mark 7:6-9**). Pharisees were more concerned that people kowtowed to their "traditions" than they were about directing pure faith toward God and His Word. Eliphaz pinpointed the issue when he asked: "Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker?" (**Job 4:17**) *How can anyone be purer than by simply observing what God has said?* "Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar" (**Proverbs 30:5-6**). **Let every Gospel Preacher take note that the real "restoration movement" did not take place in America, but the pattern was set in the prophetic days of the Old Testament.** And they were re-establishing Moses' Law, "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel" (**Hebrews 12:22-24**). Let us restore faithfulness to God's Word, and not denominational, Pharisaic doctrines!

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- ~ Too many of the footprints on the sands of time were made by heels.
- ~Not many people get tired eyes from searching for the truth.
- ~We admire the truth if it harmonizes with our opinions and desires.
- ~The greatest compliment you can pay truth is to accept and apply it.



### ***Jesus Speaks Today***

**“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray, for you do not know when the time is.”**

**Mark 13:31-33**

## **Actions Without Authorization**

All through the Bible, we see a important principle revealed – we are not to change what God has authorized.

In Leviticus 10, Nadab and Abihu, priests of God, offered a kind of fire for the burning of incense that God had not authorized (v.1). As a result, God struck them dead (v.2-3).

In 2 Chronicles 26, King Uzziah, who was doing his best to follow God’s ways (v.1-15), decided one day to do something God had not authorized. He entered the temple to burn incense before the Lord even though only priests were authorized to do so (v.16-18). Consequently, God punished him with leprosy which remained with him the rest of his life (v.19-21).

In Matthew 15, the Pharisees insisted on a certain hand washing procedure as a part of worship which God had not authorized (v.1-6). Because of this, Jesus informed them, through a prophecy of Isaiah, that their worship was not accepted by God (v.8-9).

In 2 Timothy 4, Paul reminds Timothy that he needed to keep teaching the truth because there would be those who would not follow God’s authorized ways and fall prey to false doctrine (v.1-4; see also 1 Timothy 4:1-3). The context of the passages are that they are endangering their souls by disobeying God.

On and on we could go, but I think you get the idea. God desires us to follow His authorized pattern – for salvation, for life, for worship, for everything we do. It’s serious business with Him, and it needs to be just as serious with us. For us today, He has given us the New Testament Scriptures for all instructions in life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).

So here’s the principle to remember: **Actions without authorization are dangerous**. We jeopardize our lives, souls, and our relationship with God when we stray away from His authorized instructions. Many people conduct their lives (physical and spiritual) based upon what they feel or what is popular in society. In using these as barometers for approval of God, they place themselves on very thin ice. Why not just look to the Word of God for approved actions and stick with them, knowing that we will please our Father in heaven in by so doing?

- Edd Sterchi

