

## **RESTORING TRUE WORSHIP**

2 Chronicles 34:33 ... “Thus Josiah removed all the abominations from all the country that belonged to the children of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel diligently serve the Lord their God. All his days they did not depart from following the Lord God of their fathers.”

2 Chronicles chapters 34 and 35 tells the story of eight-year-old King Josiah. His grandfather, Manasseh, was the most evil king in the history of Israel. He shifted Israel's worship of God, to idols and wicked practices. His son Amon replaced his father on the throne, but he was just as pagan as his father, and was assassinated two years later. Amon's eight-year-old son Josiah then became king.

Josiah, even given his young age, was a very special boy. At age 16 he began to seek God. At age 20 he started purging idols and pagan temples from the nation. And, at age 26 he began repairing the house of God (the Jewish temple). Today's verse tells us that he turned the people away from their false gods and turned them back to the true God of Israel. Israel honored God until Josiah was killed in battle at age 39. After that, Israel once again fell into pagan worship and God allowed Babylon to crush Israel and take the people hostage as slaves.

In our modern world many believers have adopted the philosophy that what gods people choose to worship, is their own business. They have taken the Constitutional guarantee of “freedom of religion” and translated it into a spiritual guideline of acceptance of other religions. Our nation is filled with cults and false religions that many Christians look at with tolerance. Some Christian churches are so tolerant, that they allow other faiths to use their churches. Some churches allow their facilities to be used for political purposes, such as campaign rallies, even by ungodly candidates. Some churches have warmly greeted apostasy (false teaching) and false religions into their midst.

The story from 2 Chronicles, wherein Manasseh and Amon allowed pagan worship to enter the house of God and lead God's people astray, closely mirrors what is happening today. Tolerance is not God's idea. Tolerance is a tool of satan to split, divide and conquer the children of God. It happened thousands of years ago in Israel, and it is happening today. Where is a modern Josiah? Where are the people of God who should be condemning sin, pagan worship, and false religions?

Pray for your nation, for your national leaders, but especially for your pastor that he will not fall victim of apostasy and that he will teach the genuine Gospel of repentance and obedience to Christ.

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