

# The Correspondent



**SUNDAY**

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

**WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM

Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM

[www.collinsville-troycoc.org](http://www.collinsville-troycoc.org)

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*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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## If You Do What They Did You'll Get What They Got -Renn Ferguson

**H**ave you ever heard someone say that the church Christ built is no longer in existence? Many think this way and when you consider the thousands of denominations that exist it is easy to see why. If all of these people have different opinions how could only one of them be correct? How could the church that Christ built stand the test of time? I recently saw an interview with a comedian who is an atheist. One of the reasons why he does not believe in God is because people always seem to be born in the “right” religion. If you are born in America you’re most likely born into “Christianity”. If you are born in the Middle East you are more likely to be born into Islam. Similar thinking is what leads people to not believe the church that Christ built could still be in existence. Is this true? Is the church Christ built no longer in existence? There are a couple of things we will consider when discussing this crucial topic.

Let’s start with 2 Chronicles 24:1-14. This is when Joash became King in Jerusalem. Verse 4 reads, “After this Joash decided to restore the house of the LORD.” Joash has decided to restore the temple because “the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken into the house of God, and had also used all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD for the Baals.” So, these people had destroyed and defiled the temple and Joash had determined to restore it. In verses 8-11 we see that the King sent out a decree for a collection to made to fund the work that was set before them. Then in verses 12-14 we read about the work to restore the temple. Notice specifically verse 13, “So those who were engaged in the work labored, and the repairing went forward in their hands, and they restored the house of God to its proper condition and strengthened it.” restored it to its original condition. Joash did what Solomon did and got the same result. If we do what they did we will get what they got. If we worship, act, and teach the same things that the first century church did, we are the same church.

A second thing to consider is what Daniel told king Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 2 records the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and its interpretation. Verse 44 says, “and in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” Daniel says that this kingdom God was going to build was never going to be destroyed that means from the time of it origin there would never be a time that it did not exist. You might be thinking “well Daniel was talking about the kingdom, you are talking about the church.” As we discussed in last week’s article the church and the kingdom are the same thing. So, the church will never be destroyed. Therefore the church Jesus built must be in existence today.

There are many who believe that the church of the first century is long gone. However, we can see clearly in the scriptures that His church could never be destroyed. We also see that if we do what they did in the first century we will have what they had. If we live, worship, and obey like they did we will be what they were. Let us test everything and hold fast what is good! (1 Thessalonians 5:21)