

## **Church History - The Roman Church:**

**The history of man shows he soon departs from God's way.**

**The first departure in the history of the church was how Churches were governed. God's plan was autonomous congregations cf;**

**Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [*but*] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.**

**Scripture also teaches that elders/bishops/shepherds/pastors presbyters/overseers have oversight of local congregations. I Timothy 3:1ff & Titus 1:5ff.**

**By 150AD men began to designate 1 man as a bishop & he was over an area of several churches called a diocese. Acts 20:28-30, I Peter 5:1-4 & Hebrews 13:17.**

**The Roman Emperor Constantine ended the last persecution in 312 AD & called a Church council at Nicaea in 325 AD.**

**Bishops then adopted the first man made creed called the Nicene Creed.**

**We date the Catholic Church 606AD When Boniface III took the title of Pope (*pappas*) or Universal Bishop of Roman Catholic Church. This is in spite of Christ being the Head of the Body, the Church cf:**

**Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [*things*] he might have the preeminence.**

**Matthew 16:16-18 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed [*it*] unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

**We worship at a Blood Bought Church cf:**

**Acts 20:28-30 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your**

**own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.**

**II Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also**

**II Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

**Shortly Rome made laws: Latin to be only language of scriptures & the common man was denied the scriptures.**

**Church History-The Great falling away:**

**Call no man Father cf:**

**Matthew 23:9 And call no [*man*] your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.**

**Saved by grace not works cf: Eph. 2:8. Mary not mediator between God & man cf: I Tim 2:5.**

**Ask in Jesus' name not Mary's cf: John 16:23-26.**

**"Our Father" & "Hail Mary" vain repetitions cf:**

**Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen [*do*]: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.**

**Hell has no halfway house called Purgatory cf: Luke 16:19-31.**

**No such thing as separate priesthood, all Christians are priests cf:**

**I Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.**

**Bishops must be the husband of one wife cf: I Tim 3:1-7 & Tit 1:5-9.**

**I Timothy 3:1-5 This [*is*] a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection**

**with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)**

**Titus 1:6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.**

**Celibacy is a doctrine of devils cf:**

**I Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**

**I Timothy 4: 3 Forbidding to marry, [*and commanding*] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.**

**Pope is anti-christ cf:**

**Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all [*things*] he might have the preeminence.**

**The Greek prefix anti means instead of or in place of & carries the idea of substitution. Anything instead of Christ, in place of Christ or substituted for Christ is anti-Christ. Anti-christ has been here all along cf:**

**I John 2:18-19 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [*no doubt*] have continued with us: but [*they went out*], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.**

**I John 4:1-3 & II John 1:7.**

**Pope led great falling away & is man of sin or lawlessness cf:**

**II Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [*that day shall not come*], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

**It takes as much power to change a law of God as it takes to enact a law of God.**

**Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

**So to change dipping and immersing to pouring or sprinkling takes as much power as God.**

**Acts 8:35-38 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. 36 And as they went on [*their*] way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, [*here is*] water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?**

**37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.**

**Rome sold indulgences & built St Peter's Basilica making merchandise of people's sins cf:**

**II Peter 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.**

**Greek Orthodox or Greek Catholic split from Roman Catholic in 1054 AD. They kept false doctrines of Rome except they have: No Popes, Priests may be married, & they have a cappella singing without instruments.**

### **Church History, Protestant Reformation:**

**The Protestant Reformation did not go far enough in stamping out the wicked man made changes of the medieval Roman Church which was the great falling away from the faith found in the Bible, cf:**

**II Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [*that day shall not come*], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

**Any cancer must be cut out completely, in order to save your life. Not one bit of it can be left in you or you will die. It is the same with Romanism. Protestantism just didn't go far enough in cutting out every last vestige of Catholicism in which dwells the doctrines & traditions of men.**

**Matthew 15:8-9** This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [*their*] lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching [*for*] doctrines the commandments of men.

**John 6:63** It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, [*they*] are spirit, and [*they*] are life.

**John 12:48** He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

**Pope led great falling away & is man of sin cf: II Thess. 2:1-12.** Rome sold indulgences, built St Peter Basilica making merchandise of people's sins cf:

**II Peter 2:1-3** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

**Through out the age of mid-evil darkness God's faithful remnant continued to read and study the scriptures.**

**1384 AD John Wycliffe produced hand written translations of the bible into common English based upon Jerome's Latin Vulgate translation. Wycliffe died a natural death, but 44 years later under Pope Martin V, Wycliffe's bones were dug up burned and scattered over the river Swift. Rome then began to burn all the Bibles they could find. Men who begin burning books will end up burning men. Soon after Tyndale was burned at the stake in 1536 by the Catholics and thousands more of simple Christians followed in the Great Inquisition.**

**In 1530, Martin Luther nailed 95 theses, in which Catholic doctrine was contrary to Scripture, to the door of the Roman Catholic church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther was excommunicated by the Roman Church.**

**In 1534, King Henry VIII of England, began the Church of England, which retained much of the Roman Catholic false teaching, pomp and ritualism.**

**In 1536, John Calvin began what became the Presbyterian & Reformed church.**

**1609 Our Baptist friends began in opposition to the Church of England.**

**In 1798, John Wesley began the Methodist church.**

**All Protestant denominations are less than 500 years old. We need to go back to the Church that we read about & is described in the Bible.**

### **The Restoration Movement**

**Seeks to restore the church described in the bible & the unification of all Christians in one body as the Bible describes cf:**

**John 17:20-23 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [*art*] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.**

**I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and [*that*] there be no divisions among you; but [*that*] ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**

**in a single body cf:**

**Ephesians 1:22-23 And hath put all [*things*] under his feet, and gave him [*to be*] the head over all [*things*] to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

**Ephesians 4:3-6 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 [*There is*] one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who [*is*] above all, and through all, and in you all.**

**We in the Restoration Movement seek to be patterned after New Testament church.**

**We are neither Protestants, Catholics, nor Jews, but Christians only cf:**

**Acts 11:26** And when he had found him, he brought him unto An-ti-och. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

This movement developed from several different efforts to return to apostolic Christianity. During Middle Ages dissenters such as John Wycliffe & John Huss called for restoration of the Church by return to the primitive form of Christianity.

After all at the heart of the Reformation Movement was the cry of “scripture alone” (*sola scriptura*).

English Puritans also sought to restore a pure “primitive” church.

Barton W Stone began at Cane Ridge, KY, and his group called themselves simply Christians cf:

**I Peter 4:16** Yet if [*any man suffer*] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

Another group began in Pennsylvania & West Virginia & were led by Thomas Campbell & his son Alexander. They called themselves Disciples of Christ. Elias Smith & James O’Kelly led similar groups. These groups sought to restore the whole Churches of Christ on the pattern set forth in the New Testament,

**II Peter 1:3** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that [*pertain*] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

“we speak where the Bible speaks & are silent where the Bible is silent”.

**II Timothy 3:15** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **16** All scripture [*is*] given by inspiration of God, and [*is*] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: **17** That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

**II Peter 1:20** Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. **21** For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [*as they were*] moved by the Holy Ghost

The pure word of God is described as seed cf:

**Luke 8:11** Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

**When the pure seed is planted in a honest and good heart the result is cf:**

**Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep [it], and bring forth fruit with patience.**

**So if a believing person simply comes to Christ as as the first Christians did on Pentecost in AD 30**

**Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

**Then it makes sense that God will do as He did then cf:**

**Acts 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**

**Both groups believed that the creeds of men kept Christianity divided.**

**In 1832 they joined in fellowship with a handshake. We are united in the belief that: Jesus is The Christ, the Son of God,**

**Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

**that Christians should celebrate the Lords Supper on the first day of the week,**

**Acts 20:7 And upon the first [day] of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.**

**that immersion in water is a part of salvation just like belief and faith.**

**Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

**Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

**Romans 6:3-6** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [*in the likeness*] of [*his*] resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [*him*], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

**Galatians 3:27** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**For the Church is Divine because it was created and established by God through Christ.**

**Body of Christ, Bride of Christ & Divinity of the Church:** The Church is also described as **Body of Christ** cf: One body with many members I Corinthians 12:12-27, one body Romans 12:4-5. Church is called the **Body** Eph. 1:22-23, There is but one body therefore, one Church Eph. 4:4, Eph. 4:11-15 & Eph. 5:23, Col 1:18 & Col 1:24 & **The Church of Christ is also described as The Bride of Christ:** Isaiah 62:2-5, II Cor 11:2, Rev 19:7, Rev 21:2 & Rev 22:17. **The Divinity of Church of Christ:** Some people think all religions are of divine origin & are of equal value to salvation of your soul. Others recognize some religions are not divine, nor capable of saving your soul. Anything God of Heaven is responsible for, anything He has originated is divine. Divine figures of speech used to describe the Church of Christ: The Kingdom of God cf: Mark 9:1 & Col 1:13. The Holy names of God & Christ are attached to Church I Cor. 11:16 & Rom 16:16. The Church Divinely established cf: Dan 2:44 & Matthew 16:13-18. Church is Divine in ownership cf: Acts 20:28, Eph. 5:25, I Cor 6:19-20 Jesus could call it "My Church" Matt. 16:18. Church has a Divine foundation I Cor 3:11 with Jesus Christ Chief Cornerstone. Church has a Divine head Col 1:18, Eph. 5:23-24, Matt 28:18 & Eph. 1:22 Church is the temple of God on earth Eph. 2:21-22 It is to the Church God adds those being saved cf: Acts 2:47.

**Sources: KJV, TheWord.com, Jule Miller & 52 Stimulating Studies.**