

The Roman Church, the Protestant Reformation & The Restoration Movement

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

Adam and Eve departed from God's way. Cain departed by killing Abel. The whole earth departed bringing on the flood. Man built the tower of Babel in departing and universally man rapidly fell into idolatry cf: Romans 1:18ff.

Abraham was called of God and was willing to walk in God's way, his son Isaac remained faithful and Jacob became faithful.

Moses was willing to walk in God's way. After being faithful for a short period of time under Joshua, Israel fell away during the period of the Judges and remained mostly idolatrous and wicked during its entire history. God raised them up prophets and then they persecuted and killed.

Finally God sent forth His Son saying surely: "they will reverence My Son." Matthew 21:33ff. Him they slew and hanged upon a tree but God raised Him up and established His Church just exactly like He wanted it established. The Church is the 'manifold wisdom of God' cf:

Ephesians 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly [*places*] might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,"

and His "eternal purpose" cf:

Ephesians 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

this is a plan from before the foundation of the world cf:

Ephesians 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

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.

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

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

Titus 1:5ff. Until congregations are set in order and elders are ordained the evangelist has responsibility and oversight of the local congregation.

Titus 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee

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 great persecution in 312 AD & called a Church council at Nicaea (Ni-SEE-a) in 325 AD.

Bishops then adopted the first man-made creed called the Nicene (ni-SCENE) Creed.

The criticism we make is directed toward the leadership of the Roman Church and we do not judge the salvation of those poor souls who are doing their best to find God and have been taught wrong for over 1,500 years.

We date the Catholic Church from 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.

Jesus called the Church “my church”

Matthew 16:18 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.

The Roman Church made laws such as: Latin to be only language of scriptures and the common man was denied the scriptures in his own language.

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:

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [*it is*] the gift of God:

Mary is not a mediator between God & man cf:

I Tim 2:5 For [*there is*] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Ask in Jesus' name not Mary's cf:

John 16:23-26 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give [*it*] you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. 25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. 26 At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

“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 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named

Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that [*would come*] from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

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 Timothy 3:1-7 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?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Titus 1:5-9 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to

filthy lucre; 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

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.

The Pope by claiming to be head of the Church makes himself 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. The Antichrist 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 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [*spirit*] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

II John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

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.

It is all about authority ... where do you get the authority to do and practice how you believe and worship? The Roman church talks about a 3 leg stool, the Pope, tradition and scripture. The pope and traditions were invented by men and their bad translation of scripture leaves them sitting on the floor.

Rome sold indulgences and built St Peter's 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. 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 many of the false doctrines of Rome except they have: No Popes, Priests may be married, and they have a cappella singing without instruments.

Church History, Protestant Reformation:

John Wycliffe in 1384 is credited with the first hand written translation of the Bible into English ... in fact The Bible was first translated from Jerome's Latin Vulgate into Old English by a few select monks and scholars many years before Wycliffe. He died a natural death, but 44 years later the Catholic Pope Martin V had Wycliffe's bones dug up and burned and then 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 Roman church and thousands more simple Christians followed in the Great Inquisition ... where owning or reading a Bible carried a sentence of death. * See the footnote at the end of this lesson for the sum of 35,000 who so died.

1415 - John Huss - Burned for preaching the Gospel and rejecting Rome's views

The Lutheran Church began on the eve of the Catholic holiday "all saints day" October 31, 1517 AD Martin Luther who was a Roman Catholic priest, nailed his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany showing where the 95 points of Roman doctrine conflicted with scripture. Luther was excommunicated by the Roman Church. It was not Luther's goal to start a new Church but rather reform the old one. Luther was especially opposed to the sale of indulgences, but, being educated by the Roman Catholics, he kept much of their false doctrine in his new religion.

Lutheranism is based upon the traditions of men, not the Word of God. If you read Luther's Augsburg confession, you will see that he believed that God couldn't come to the earth as Jesus without Mary's permission. Lutherans call Mary the Mother of the Church, and in their sacraments and large catechism, they state that Jesus has given her the keys to the kingdom, and they believed that Jesus promised her the Gates of Hell shall not prevail against her. Nothing in the bible teaches the Church is our mother. God's children are not begotten by the Church but rather by the Word of God. cf:

I Pet 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

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 prophesied 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 Romanism in which dwells the doctrines and traditions of men.

Luther taught we are justified by faith "alone". He added the word alone to Romans 3:28 in his translation of the New Testament.

Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

James 2:20-24 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only

The Lutherans baptize by sprinkling or pouring, they say one one mode is just as valid as another.

John 3:23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were

Act 8:38 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. Act 8:39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing

The Lutherans baptize children and say: "Children have inherited a sinful heart and the germ of sin in them will soon grow."

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

Ezekiel 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the

righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him

Lutherans say the Lord's Supper is a sacrament through which forgiveness of sins is promised. There is no such thing as sacraments this is a catholic word not found in the Bible. Forgiveness is not through taking the Lord's Supper.

Lutherans observe the catholic holidays of Lent and Easter. Christ gave us 52 holidays a year the 1st day of the week.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching

Act 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.

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.

Throughout the age of medieval darkness God's faithful remnant continued to read and study the scriptures.

Elizabethan English, the English of Shakespeare developed just in time for the publication of the scriptures in English for the common man.

Tyndale New Testament 1526-1530

William Tyndale was an English scholar who became a leading figure in Protestant reformation in the years leading up to his execution.

He is well known for his translation of the Bible into English. He was influenced by the work of Erasmus, who made the Greek New Testament available in Europe, and by Martin Luther.

A number of partial translations had been made from the seventh century onward, but the spread of Wycliffe's Bible resulted in a death sentence for any unlicensed possession of Scripture in English—even though translations had been accomplished and made available in all other major European languages.

Tyndale's translation was the first English Bible to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, the first English one to take advantage of the printing press, and first of the new English Bibles of the Reformation. It was taken to be a direct challenge to the hegemony, or, world domination, of both the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of England maintaining the church's position.

Tyndale worked in an age in which Greek was available to the European scholarly community for the first time in centuries. Erasmus compiled and edited Greek Scriptures into the Textus Receptus—ironically, to improve upon the Latin Vulgate—following the Fall of Constantinople in 1453.

Constantinople's fall helped to fuel the Renaissance and led to the dispersion of Greek-speaking intellectuals and texts into a Europe which previously had no access to them.

A copy of *The Obedience of a Christian Man* fell into the hands of Henry VIII, providing the king with the rationale to break the Church in England from the Roman Catholic Church in 1534.

In 1535, Tyndale was arrested and jailed in the castle of Filford outside of Brussels for over a year. In 1536, he was convicted of heresy and executed by strangulation, after which his body was burnt at the stake. His dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would be opened in just two years later with Henry's authorization of the Great Bible for the Church of England, which was largely Tyndale's own work. Hence, the Tyndale Bible, as it was known, continued to play a key role in spreading Reformation ideas across the English-speaking world and, eventually, to the British Empire.

In 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the King James Bible drew significantly from Tyndale, as well as from translations that descended from his. One estimate suggests that the New Testament in the King James Version is 83% Tyndale's and the Old Testament 76%.

1535 Miles Coverdale's Bible

Matthew's Bible 1537 author was:

John Rogers printed the second complete English Bible in 1537. It was, however, the first English Bible translated from the original Biblical languages of Hebrew & Greek. He printed it under the pseudonym "Thomas Matthew", (an assumed name that had actually been used by Tyndale at one time) as a considerable part of this Bible was the translation of Tyndale.

When the time came that he should be brought out of Prison to Smithfield, the place of his execution, Woodroofe, one of the sheriffs, first came to John Rogers, and asked him if he would revoke his abominable doctrine, and the evil opinion of the Sacrament of the altar. Rogers answered, "That which I have preached I will seal with my blood." Then Woodroofe said, "Thou art an heretic." Rogers replied "That shall be known at the Day of Judgment." Woodroofe added, "I will never pray for thee." Rogers responded "But I will pray for you."

John Rogers awaited and met death on the 4th of February 1555 at Smithfield cheerfully, though he was denied even a last moment with his wife. Rogers stands as the first blood on the hands of Queen "Bloody" Mary... and the first of hundreds more to come. The French ambassador speaks of the support given to John Rogers by the majority of the people commenting, "even his children assisted at it, comforting him in such a manner that it seemed as if he had been led to a wedding rather than an execution."

The Great Bible 1539 Geneva Bible 1560-1644

The Bishops' Bible 1568

King James Version 1611

The Majority Text represents the Byzantine text-type, which was used in Eastern Greek speaking churches and was dominant from the late middle ages onwards.

The Church of England began in 1531-1539 AD under King Henry VIII and retained much of the Roman false teaching, pomp and ritualism. King Henry passed the "Act of Supremacy" which made him the only supreme ruler in earth of the Church of England". Thus Henry became the pope of England.

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.

Henry VIII then confiscated the wealth of the Catholic Churches amounting to sum 38,000,000 pounds sterling.

Episcopalians say the church should be governed by one bishop who reigns over a diocese of several local Churches. The Bible teaches that a plurality of bishops or elders guided the local congregations established by the apostles.

Episcopalians say what the parents promise for the child at his or her baptism the child is bound to believe and obey.

A ridiculous doctrine: every bucket will sit on its own bottom before God cf:

Ezekiel 18:20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him

Episcopalians say a person must obey the 10 commandments because his parents bound it upon him at baptism as well as the apostle's creed.

Col 2:14-17 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. 16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ

Episcopalians say infants are born in sin, inherited from their parents.

Sin is transgression of the law.

Romans 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

We go astray like the prodigal son we are not born astray we are the offspring of God.

Act 17:29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

Episcopalians say Christ died to reconcile God to man. The exact opposite is true Christ came to reconcile us to the Father

II Corinthians 5:18-19 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

In 1540 he chained a copy of his bible to the pulpit in every Church in England. This group has been called “the bridge Church” between Roman Catholic and Protestants. They kept the Catholic sacraments, creeds and most of the pomp and ceremony of the Roman Catholic Church while rejecting the pope.

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

1611 Our Baptist friends began in opposition to the Church of England. Let’s be honest, the vast majority of people who call themselves Baptists do not believe in the extreme views of Baptist & Calvinists doctrine such as once saved always saved and predestination with no free will of choice regarding salvation.

Methodist 1739 AD John Wesley began the Methodist Church. Methodists say the Methodist church is a Church of Christ in which the pure word of God is preached and the sacraments duly administered.

Methodist is not in the bible.

Isaiah 62:1-2 For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. 2 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Act 11:1 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

Act 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. 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.

Romans 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

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

We all understand the meaning of restoration. To restore is to place back in the original condition. Some like to restore antique automobiles back to their pristine condition. Others restore antique furniture. There are technicians who restore old oil paintings. The whole idea of restoration is to duplicate the original. There would be no need of restoration if there had not been some type of corruption from the original state.

Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.

Suppose the game of baseball completely vanished from the earth. Then a couple of thousand years from now, someone discovered the rule book of baseball and began to read and study the game. He shares his discovery with others and following the rules of baseball they begin to play baseball. Have they established a new game? No, they simply have restored the old game of baseball.

When one begins to practice the New Testament teaching they have not established a new denomination, we simply have become what they became in the beginning when they believed the word were baptized into Christ and the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved.

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.

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.

Therefore, the Restoration Movement seeks to restore the original Church and the unification of all Christians in obedience to the Lord who prayed we would be one 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.

The great rallying cry of the Restoration Movement was: “We do not claim to be the only Christians but Christians Only”

Meaning we will be called by no other name than Christians.

Unfortunately some of our forefathers began to teach we are the only Christians and only Church of Christ members will be saved. Divorce and remarriage was pictured as the unforgiveable sin, This and other far right very harsh, unloving, judgmental positions exist, but: no man is the final authority who can make the final decision on anything or anyone ... only Christ will judge all souls upon that judgment day:

John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

Matthew 25:31-36 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [*his*] sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [*done*] in [*his*] body, according to that he hath done, whether [*it be*] good or bad.

It is a natural law of gravity and motion that a pendulum pulled all the way to the extreme right will swing all the way back to the extreme left ... and unfortunately that is where we find ourselves today with the “change movement” which is invading the Churches of Christ.

The change movement says: “it’s all about saving souls” but the changes often spells the ruination of some congregations.

It is division and the love of money that has made people dis-interested in hearing about God and Christianity. Paul appealed for unity when the idea of denominations first began.

I Corinthians 1:10-12 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. **11** For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house* of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. **12** Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

After all “Christian” is a new name the prophet Isaiah says will come straight from the mouth of God:

Isaiah 62:1-2 For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. **2** And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Act 11:1 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

Act 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. 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.

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

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.

After all Divine Holy Names are associated with the Church in Scripture.

I Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [*to be*] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Acts 20:28 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.

Romans 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

We seek to restore the church described in the bible and the unification of all Christians in one body of Christ as the Bible describes cf:

John 17:20-22 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.

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 Endeavoring 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 the Middle Ages dissenters such as John Wycliffe and 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 (sola scriptura) “scripture alone”.

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

Right after the American Revolution men from various backgrounds began to see the need to reject human creeds and the doctrines and traditions of men for the scriptures alone. In 1801 Barton W Stone began meetings at Cane Ridge, Kentucky, 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 and was led by Thomas Campbell and his son Alexander. They called themselves Disciples of Christ. Elias Smith and James O'Kelly led similar groups. These groups sought to restore the whole Churches of Christ on the basis of the pattern set forth in the New Testament ... after all:

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:

A great principle of the restoration movement is the silence of scripture. We understand God often speaks with silence, therefore, Campbell said: "We speak where the Bible speaks & are silent where the Bible is silent." An example of how the Bible teaches by silence is cf:

Hebrews 1:5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

Martin Luther insisted he could do anything the scriptures did not forbid. Ulrich Zwingli said he could only do what the scriptures authorized. It has to do with how you believe God ... Did Jesus keep His promises to the apostles? Cf:

John 16:12-13 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

I Peter 4:11 If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen

One is astonished at how men presume the right to speak and act on their own initiative and they do what neither the Lord Jesus nor the Holy Spirit ever dared to do. We see them inventing and adding strange forms of worship, recasting the organization of the church, assuring people of alternative ways of obeying the gospel, and ignoring the all-sufficiency of the Scriptures. Cf:

II John 9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

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.

Notice Paul first generation, Timothy second generation was expected to convey the same to “faithful men” third generation, who could then yet teach others fourth generation the same things. Paul was not allowing for a postmodern changeable message adapting to the changing times.

We must never presume the right to act or speak in the hushed silence of God. Respect for the silence of scripture made our forefathers refuse instrumental music in worship and they chose to not create a national organization to manage the mission work of the church.

Did the Spirit guide the Apostles all truth or not? Therefore the affirmation that the Bible is the full and final revelation of God to man on earth must be the next step of our reasoning.

The Bible plainly teaches do not add to the Word of God nor take away from the Word of God.

Just because a man sees nothing wrong with a belief or an act, does not mean that God approves of it. Cf:

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

Deuteronomy 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you

Deuteronomy 12:32 What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Proverbs 30:5-6 Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

Matthew 15:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Col 2:20:23 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

NIV verse 23 “Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom with their self-imposed worship, their false humility ...”

NAS verse 23 “These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion ...”

I Corinthians 4:6 And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and *to* Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think *of men* above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

I Peter 4:11 If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen

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

II Timothy 3:15-17 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 1:20-21 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

In the parable of the sower 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 an 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 today if a believing person simply comes to Christ as the first Christians did on Pentecost in AD 30 then we must follow the instructions of the First Gospel Sermon:

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 common 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 the Stone/Campbell Movement joined in fellowship with a handshake. There was great belief and agreement concerning congregational autonomy that each local congregation could govern itself.

We were originally 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, faith, confessing and repentance.

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.

The Church is Divine because it was created and established by God through Christ. Jesus calls the Church “my Church” cf:

Matthew 16:18 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.

The Church is described in divine names:

Romans 16:16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

Acts 20: 28 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.

I Corinthians 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called [*to be*] saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Hebrews 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Who exactly was God's "firstborn"? Jesus Christ "the Son of the Living God."

Jesus is The Christ, the Son of God cf:

Matt 16:13-19 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? Mat 16:14 and they said, some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Mat 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. Mat 16:18 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. Mat 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Sources: KJV, TheWord.com, Jule Miller for dates & 52 Stimulating Studies Wikipedia, The History of the English Bible, "Murdered by the Church of Rome at <http://www.scionofzion.com/mcr.htm>

Waldensians - 11/17th centuries - Many different violent persecutions against these Believers who had the Bible handed down to them as early as the 2nd century. The cave of Castelluzzo saw the murder of hundreds of Waldensian mothers and children in 1209.

1126 - Peter of Bruis - Burned at the Stake - Rejected Rome's traditions

1155 - Arnold of Brescia - Bible Preacher - Hanged and Burned

1211 - 80 Waldensians - burned at the stake

1215 - 80 Christians - Tried by red hot iron and burned to death the same day in Strasburg, Germany.

1237 - 15 Christians burned alive at Cerdagne and Castlebon, Spain

1315 - Waldensian Bishop Neumunster - Burned at the stake in Hamburg, Germany

1315 - 50 Women and children burned at the stake in Schweidnitz in Silesia

1386 - Christmas Eve- Inquisitor Borelli attacks Valley of Pragela; hundreds frozen to death trying to escape.

1400 - William Sawtree - Wycliffe follower - Burned at the stake

1408 - John Resby - Heresy - Burned at Perth, Scotland

1409 - Tailor named Bradbe - Wycliffe follower - Roasted alive in a barrel
1415 - John Huss - Burned for preaching the Gospel and rejecting Rome's views
1416 - 300 burned at the stake in Saxony
1417 - Sir John Oldcastle - Helped distribute Wycliffe Bible - Martyred for his faith by being roasted over fire
1427 - John Purvey - Bible distribution - died in prison - 1421-7
1431 - Paul Craws - Convicted at St. Andrews, Scotland and burned to death
1481/2 - 2,000 people burned alive in Spanish Inquisition in Seville and Castile
1488 - 3,000 Waldensian believers murdered in a cave called Aigue-Froid
1506 - William Tyllsworth - Burned for his faith in the Word of God
1511 - James Brewster - Burned at the stake - Having a book of Scripture
1514 - Richard Hun - Died suspiciously in Lollard's Tower in London
1519 - Six men and women burned for teaching their children the Lord's prayer - London
1525 - Gospel preacher named Schuch - Burned at the stake in Strasburg for preaching and having a Bible - His Bible was burned with him.
1528 - Patrick Hamilton - Burned at the Stake in Scotland for declaring that it is the right of any person to read God's Word
1529 - Louis Berquin - Burned at the Stake in France for printing and distributing Bible tracts in French
1530 - John Tewksbury - Burned at the stake for Bible distribution - England
1531 - Thomas Bilney - Martyred for preaching and distributing the Tyndale Bible
1531 - Richard Bayfield - Burned at the stake for Scripture distribution
1532 - James Bainham - Burned for possessing Scriptures in the English language
1533 - Henry Forrest - Benedictine Monk who became saved - Burned at the stake in St. Andrews, Scotland
1533 - John Fryth - Burned for preaching the true Gospel - England
1534/5 - 24 Protestants burned alive in Paris, France
1535 - Dean Forret - Burned for having Scripture in the English tongue - Scotland
1536 - William Tyndale - Burned at the Stake for Translating the Bible into English - His translation became the groundwork for the King James Version
1536 - Ann Boleyn - Wife of Henry the VIII - Beheaded for the true faith
1540 - Thomas Garrett - Friend of Tyndale - Burned at the stake - England
1545 - Massacre of Merindol and Cabrieres, France - Thousands of Waldensians murdered
1546 - Peter Chapot burned to death in Meaux, France for bringing French bibles to France
1546 - Stephen Polliot - Burned at the Stake for bringing Scriptures into France - His tongue was cut out so he could not witness to those around him at his execution.
1546 - Ann Askew - Tortured and burnt for studying and believing the true Scriptures
1548 - Paul Fagius - Burned for translating the Bible - England
1548 - Martin Bucer - Burned for translating the Bible - England
1553 - Nicholas Nayle - Burned at the stake in Paris because he brought gospel books for believers.
1554 - Lady Jane Grey - Beheaded for her conversion to true Christianity
1555 - Nicholas Ridley - Burned for his faith - England
1555 - Hugh Latimer - Burned for his faith - England
1555 - John Rogers - Translator of the Matthews Bible into English
1556 - Bartholmew Hector - Preaching and Bible Distribution - Burned at Thurin
1560 - Julian Hernandez - Burned at the stake in Spain for Bible Distribution
1560 - Jean Louis Paschale - Believed the Bible over Romish teachings
1560 - Stefano Negrino - Starved to death in prison - Italy
1561 - 88 men had throats slit in Montalto - Italy
1561 - Hugo Chiamps - Entrails torn from his body at Turin, Italy
1561 - Peter Geymarali - Entrails torn from his body at Lucerna, Italy
1561 - Maria Romano - Buried alive at Rocco-patia, Italy
1561 - Magdalen Foulano - Buried alive at San Giovanni, Italy
1561 - Susan Michelini - Hands and feet bound - Left to die in cold and hunger - Saracena, Italy
1561 - Bartholomew Fache - Gashed with Sabres and wounds filled with quicklime - Died from the agonizing pain
1561 - James Baridari - Sulpherous matches placed all over body and then lit

1561 - Daniel Revelli - Mouth filled with gun powder and then lit - Head blown to pieces
1561 - Maria Monnen - Flesh cut from cheek and chin thus exposing cheek bone- left to Perish
1561 - Thomas Margueti - Mutilated to death at Miraboco, Italy
1561 - Sudan Jaquin - Cut to bits in La Torre, Italy
1561 - Sara Rostagnol - Slit open from legs to Bosom - Perished on road between Eyral and Lucerna
1561 - Anna Char bonnier - Impaled on a spike and carried from San Giovanni to La Torre
1561 - Daniel Rambaud - Refused to renounce the true Gospel as they took his nails off, then fingers, then his feet, then his hands, then his arms and finally his legs at Paesano, Italy
1562 - James Bovell - Rejected Rome's teachings in favor of the Bible
1566 - Francesco Spinula - Drowned at Venice, Italy for making a Latin version of the Psalms
1567 - Pietro Carnesecchi - Refused to bow to papal authority
1570 - Aonio Paleario - Martyred for writing a book called "The benefit of Christ's Death."
1572 - St Bartholomew's Day Massacre - 4,000 brutally murdered of the French Huguenots - It lasted from August 24 to October 23 - Total killed during this time was about 35,000