

The Restoration Plea

(continued from last week)

1. **THE RESTORATION PLEA IMPLIES THAT GOD HAD A PLAN FOR THE CHURCH.**
2. **THE RESTORATION PLEA IMPLIES THAT GOD EXPECTS US TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW HIS PLAN.**

Warnings not to go beyond the teaching of Christ abound in the New Testament (Galatians 1:6-9; Matthew 15:13; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Revelation 22:18-19). John said explicitly:

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. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds (2 John 1:9-11).

3. **THE RESTORATION PLEA IMPLIES THAT MAN LEFT GOD'S PATTERN.**

By becoming too well known, a product can lose its distinctiveness. The Trademark Association calls this problem "genericide." Marlin Connelly gives some examples:

- ♦ All facial tissue is called Kleenex,
- ♦ Any gelatin dessert is Jello,
- ♦ Any clear, sticky tape is Scotch Tape,
- ♦ Any carbonated drink is a Coke (at least in the South),
- ♦ Any adhesive bandage is a Band-Aid.

This has happened to the words Christian and Christianity. Once brand names for a definite product, they are now used for any kind of vague religiosity connected loosely with the historical Christ. In the minds of some, the rigid New Testament ethical code is now fluid and accommodating. Doctrines that in Bible times were black and white are now gray and faded. Practices that were then commanded are now optional. For instance, the creed book of the largest Protestant denomination states:

It is most likely that in the Apostolic age when there was but "one Lord, one faith, and one baptism," and no differing denominations existed, the baptism of a convert by that very act constituted him a member of the church, and at once endowed him with all the rights and privileges of full membership. In that sense, "baptism was the door into the church." Now, it is different.²

GOD HAS NOT CHANGED HIS MIND.

Why is it different today? God has not changed His mind. Men have usurped authority not belonging to them and changed God's church into something different from what He intended. Surely God wants us to return to His original vision for the church.

4. **THE RESTORATION PLEA IMPLIES THAT GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO RESTORE HIS ORIGINAL PATTERN TODAY.**

In the long ago, God's prophet urged, as we do today, "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" (Jeremiah 6:16). Let's go out among our neighbors with an open Bible and call them back to these old paths.

Prayers and Concerns

- ♦ Melinda Walrath had a "little heart attack" (her words) last week and received a stent on Thursday.
- ♦ Emma McGinnis was diagnosed with Alpha Girl disease and may have liver or gall bladder problems.
- ♦ Bethany Schneider's mother had extensive surgery Thursday at KU Medical Center in Kansas City and several tumors were found throughout her abdominal cavity. She is in ICU, and Bethany is staying with her at night, while her Dad is staying in the daytime.
- ♦ Our sympathy goes to the Marcie Tackett Roberts family. Her kidney ruptured causing infection to spread and shut down her organs. Her husband also is being treated for cancer.
- ♦ Scarlett Hall still needs prayers for no brain damage.
- ♦ Pray for all the grieving families in Texas who lost loved ones in the flood water.
- ♦ Those waiting for or recovering from surgery: Kevin Kastning, Melinda Abraham, Winston Abraham, Randy Johnson, Melissa Rumenapp, Renee Schmucker.
- ♦ Remember those with health issues—D. E. Pleasant, Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Vernon James, Mary Morrison, Ruth Strain, Steve and Diane Siebels, Bob Robbins.
- ♦ All those battling cancer—Wayman King, Kay Schneider, Jack Moyers, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ♦ Those in nursing homes and/or homebound.



FAITH &
OBEDIENCE
COME FIRST,
THEN GOD
ANSWERS
PRAYER!

| Birthdays | | Anniversaries | |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 7-3 | Ronnie Hambelton | 7-1 | Larry and Dorlene Butler |
| 7-4 | R. J. Moyers | 7-4 | David and Barbara Stevens |
| 7-8 | Emma McGinnis | 7-10 | Dale and Brenda Strong (60) |
| 7-9 | Bryce Hambelton | 7-15 | Titus and Jessica Smith |
| 7-13 | Oakley Goodman (4) | Birthdays | |
| 7-15 | Jack Moyers (95) | 7-27 | Mary Piepergerdes (90) |
| 7-22 | Chance Strong | 7-28 | Myles Smith (4) |
| 7-23 | Diana Moyers Siebels | 7-30 | Esther Strong |
| 7-25 | Vance Hambelton | | |

Send a card to Jack for his 95th birthday!

Jack Moyers, Room 111
Sycamore Springs Senior Living
165 Jerry Baker Ln.
Mtn. Home, AR 72653

Send a card to Mary for her 90th birthday!

Mary Piepergerdes
PO Box 5
Gainesville, MO 65655

Blessings

- ◇ Amy Myers' scan this week showed she is cancer free!
- ◇ Having a church family that loves and cares about each other.
- ◇ Living in the greatest country in the world.

You are not too dirty for God to cleanse. You are not too broken for God to fix. You are not too far for God to reach. You are not too guilty for God to forgive. And you are not too worthless for God to love.

July Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

7-13 David Stevens
7-20 Don Luna
7-27 John Abraham

Communion & Closing Prayer

Paul Wade
Titus Smith
Tinker Langston

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: Kay Young and Mary Lou Snelson

The Family News

July 13, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Relationship through Obedience***

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up front—Thanks, Waylon, for leading!

#881, *Mansion over the Hilltop*; #874, *Walking Alone at Eve*

#379, *If That Isn't Love*; Communion Service

#778, *Be with Me, Lord*

Sermon and Invitation

#915; *Trust and Obey*

#755, *God Be with You*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us