

# Church History: Reformation And Restoration Movements

Sunday PM 08/26/18

## Introduction:

The church established on the Day of Pentecost, 33 AD, at Jerusalem. Jesus is the Savior of the body, the Head of His church, and its foundation, *Ephesians 1.22*. All of this in the Bible.

We noticed the departure from the doctrine and organization from that in the Bible. We stopped at the establishment of the Catholic Church. We want to continue to the "Reformation Movement."

Time Periods: Up to 500 AD - Ancient History

500 to 1300's - Dark Ages, Middle (Medieval) Ages

1400's to present - Modern History

Church Time Periods: 33 - 300 Primitive Church

300 - 1300's - Church in Apostasy

1400's to present - Restoration

## I) Reasons for Decline of Papal Influence

A) Changing trends in society

1. Sense of individualism
2. Rise of nationalism
3. Secularization of society
4. Printing Press

## **B) Popes' declining power**

1. Kings started taxing church property
2. Boniface issued *Unam Sanctam* 1302; Pope could judge kings but only God could judge the Pope.
3. Philip of France rebelled, the knights agreed. France defeated Italy and captured the Pope.
4. Renaissance - the re-birth; Individualism, culture and learning, independent thought, emphasis on the secular, translations of the Bible into the common language.
5. 1439 Johannes Gutenberg invents the printing press. The first book printed was the "Gutenberg Bible."
  - a. Tyndale translated the Bible "Plow Boy Bible" so the average plow boy could know more than the Pope.
  - b. For a time the Pope was trying to purchase all the Bibles.

## **C) Doctrinal issues**

1. Debate over "works of righteousness" and salvation by grace through faith. Augustine vs. Pelagianism
2. Priest were buying and selling church offices without restraint.
3. Moral decay in the church. Court justice would be purchased for money.
4. One could buy a divorce or be granted an illegal marriage.

5. Priests having concubines.

#### **D) Indulgencies**

1. Based upon salvation by works and a person could purchase righteous works.
2. A good person without enough works would go to purgatory until payment of suffering was made. A person would die with more than enough good works and the church could sell those remaining good works to those that did not have enough.
3. The Pope wanted to build and needed more money. John Tetzel went throughout Germany selling those indulgencies. Tetzel said that he through the selling of indulgencies save more people than Saint Peter himself. *"Indulgencies are the most precious and noble of God's gifts. This cross has as much efficacy as the very cross of Jesus Christ. Come and I will give you letters, all properly sealed, by which even the sins which you intend to commit may be pardoned. I would not change my privileges for those of Saint Peter in Heaven: for I have saved more souls by my indulgencies than the apostle by his sermons. There is no sin so great that an indulgence cannot remit; let him pay - only let him pay well, and all will be forgiven him."* J.W. Shepard - The Church, Falling Away And Restoration

#### **II) Reformers**

##### **A) Martin Luther born November 10, 1483.**

1. November 11 he was "baptized" which was Saint

Martin's Day. Therefore, he was named Martin Luther.

2. He read after Augustine and decided he was lost. Almost starved himself to death before someone told him to read the writings of Paul.
3. He went to Wittenburg, Germany to teach philosophy but when the Senior Priest was gone he would teach in his place. No long before the Cathedral would be full.
4. 1517 John Tetzel came selling his indulgencies.
5. October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed his "95 theses" to the church door. He then proceeded to preach a lesson on the "95 theses".
6. In a debate, June 27, 1519 Luther rejected the authority of the General Council when it conflicted with Scriptures.
7. 1520 Papal bull was issued to excommunicate Luther unless he recanted his beliefs.
  - a, Priesthood of all believers
  - b. Every Christian had the right to interpret every scripture
  - c. Duty of Christian princes to call a council.
8. In 1520 in his 2nd composition he stated there were only 2 sacraments (Lord's Supper, and Baptism).
- 9 Eventually Lutherans had to move to Switzerland. Lutheran church became the state religion in Sweden 1526; Denmark 1539; Norway 1536

## **B) Protestant**

1. In 1526 Lutheran nobles decreed that each German prince had the right to decide which religion would be supported in his principalities,
2. In 1529 Charles V called a Diet in which the earlier decision was reversed.
3. The Lutheran princes immediately protested the reversal. Hence, the term "Protestant" was used in reference to the reformers. The Eternal Kingdom, page 250.

## **C) The result of the "Reformation Movement" was various denominations being developed.**

1. They replaced the Pope with their creeds.
2. Eventually this led to the "Restoration Movement"

## **III) What Is Restoration?**

### **A) To "restore" - to bring back or put back in its original state.**

1. To restore a chair or car means to put it back into its original condition when it was first made.
2. If I wanted to restore the game of football I would need the rule book.
  - a. The size of the field, number of players on the field at a time, the time of the game, the size and shape of the ball, etc.
  - b. Then I would have to play the game by the rules.

**B) To restore the church means to bring it back to its original condition.**

1. The foundation of the church and its head. *1 Cor. 3.11*
2. The doctrine of the church, *Acts 2.42*
3. Need the Bible to see how one became a member of the church.
4. What the church did and how it function.

**C) Restoration Movement was not an attempt to reform the denominations or Catholic Church but to go directly to the New Testament.**

1. The true church has existed from the Day of Pentecost onward, *Isaiah 55.11*
2. As long as we have the word of God, and people obey it, the church will exist here on earth.

**IV) The Climate of Restoration**

**A) "Toleration Acts" 1649**

1. There was religious toleration in the colonies.
2. In Virginia the Church of England (Episcopalian) was dominating. But you still have Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterians, etc. Many came here to escape religious persecution.

**B) Country of great freedom**

1. Distance from Europe and its governing authorities.
2. Rebellion against England and a developing country.

## V) The Restoration Movement.

A) **Movement** - “a progressive development of ideas toward a particular conclusion: the movement of this thought”; “a series of actions or activities intended or tending toward a particular end”

1. The goal of going back to the Bible.
2. The goal was not to follow a particular person and no one person was the head or leader of the group. The church existed here before some of the men we are going to talk about.
  - a. William Rogers monument at Cane Ridge, Ky.
  - b. Old Mulkey Meeting House, Glasgow, KY. John Mulkey the preacher called for the church to abandon human names, creeds, and doctrines. Membership was about 200 people, whereas 50 left on November 17, 1809. One will find this plague: Finally brethren our light will shine and the truth will prevail. Indeed, brethren, we have reason to rejoice that notwithstanding the floods or opposition and torrents of abuse that have poured forth from various quarters, yet truth is prevailing. Gospel light is shining. Error and sectarian bigotry are in many instances giving way: and the kingdom of the Redeemer is spreading.

B) **James O'Kelley in Virginia was Methodist (1736? to 1826)**

1. "Christmas Conference" in 1784 in Asbury wanted to head the Methodist Church and organize it on the Episcopal order.

2. O'Kelley said the Bible was all sufficient for faith and practice, The Eternal Kingdom, page 311.
3. 1794 they drew up the "five Cardinal Principles of the Christian Church"
  - a. Christ is the only head of the church
  - b. The name Christian is the only acceptable name
  - c. The Bible is the only rule of faith
  - d. Christian character is the only test of church fellowship
  - e. The right of private judgment is the privilege of all.

**C) Barton W. Stone was Presbyterian (1772-1844)  
Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee**

1. Rejected the doctrine of total depravity and absolute predestination.
2. Called upon sinners to repent and accept Christ.
3. Moved to Cane Ridge, Kentucky where the Cane Ridge Revival (August 6-12?, 1801) occurred. Estimated 20,000 to 30,000 people came from different denominations.
4. Keys - wear only the name of Christ, no authority but the Bible, immersion is essential to salvation, each congregation choose their own preacher, preach without regard to philosophy, vain deceit, human tradition, or the rudiments of the world. .



**D) Thomas Campbell, from Ireland (1763-1854) was Presbyterian**

1. While speaking to a group at a house Thomas Campbell said, "Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent." See, *1 Peter 4.11*.

**E) Alexander Campbell (1788-1866) in Ireland and moved to Pennsylvania 1808, was Presbyterian**

1. Brush Run congregation was organized as an independent congregation with Thomas as an elder and Alexander as the preacher. They observed the Lord's Supper on a weekly basis.
2. A member, Joseph Bryant before taking communion demanded that he be immersed in order to follow the New Testament.
3. Baptism was not made a test of fellowship, infant baptism was still accepted.
4. March 12, 1811 Alexander married Margaret Brown, her parents were Presbyterian
  - a. Jane was born a year later, lead to the questioning of infant baptism
  - b. Immersion was baptism and not sprinkling or pouring.
  - c. No scripture to authorize infants to be immersed
  - d. Forced then to realize infant baptism (sprinkling) was only a ceremony, they were not a part of Christ's body.

5. Alexander realized he needed to be baptized; went to Matthias Luce, a Baptist preacher, to be immersed. Eventually immersion became a test of fellowship at the Brush Run Church.
6. He denounced the clergy/laity system; also synods, councils, conventions, and other legislative groups.

**F) Walter Scott (1796-1861) - - called upon people to believe, repent, confess Christ, and be baptized into the body of Christ.**

**G) Raccoon John Smith (1784-1868) - - called upon people to be only Christians.**

### **Conclusion:**

In order to restore the church they had to cast off the doctrines of men. This included infant baptism, associations, and false doctrines. See *1 John 2.2*; *2 Peter 3.9*; and *Hebrews 2.9* to show that all can be saved for Jesus died for all. We have the word of God, *Luke 8.11*. We are to follow the pattern shown us in the Bible, *Romans 6.16*.