

When it comes to church growth, I believe the best way to go forward is by going backward.

The restoration plea of the churches of Christ is to go back to the Bible. We believe the Bible to be God's inspired word and His blueprint for our lives. The New Testament contains God's pattern for the church; its organization, its worship, and its work. As individual Christians, who make up the body of Christ, the NT tells us how to live in every relationship of life. We seek answers to life's problems through Bible study and prayer.

I like going forward in life. I enjoy new things and I am not afraid of change. I welcome new perspectives, ideas, and plans. It is one thing to be conservative, but it is another to be preservative. The Bible says grow, and that means change. Preserving the status quo may not always be what God desires.

If we are to mature, we must first go back and see what God has said in His word. To try and improve our lives on our own would be of little value since "it is not within a man to direct his own footsteps" (Jer. 10:23). The first step in going forward is to go back(ward) to the Bible. Once we establish that our plans, directions, and attitudes are supported by the Scriptures, it's time to go full-speed ahead!

There is an old adage that says, "You have to bend your knees before you can jump." Without first bending our knees in prayer and Bible study, we cannot jump ahead as God would have us to do. May the church always have spiritual and numerical growth--going forward by going back to the Bible. . .

See you Sunday!

-gls