

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 16:13-18**.
- B. Tonight, I want to discuss for a few minutes **some very important doctrinal issues** about the restoration movement of which we are apart.
- C. It is very important that we understand the Biblical basis of the restoration movement as well as its historical people who were a part of it.

I. THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT.

- A. The restoration movement in this country was an attempt by various men to leave the denominational world that had divided Christendom and to unite all believers in the one church of the NT.
- B. They wished to **restore**, that is bring back the originality, uniqueness and unmistakable characteristics of the first century church.
- C. In doing this they had to endure much persecution and hardship. They also had to work hard in study to know what the Bible taught in regard to the church. We today are still a part of this movement wanting to do what God has instructed through the NT writers.

II. THE RESTORATION PLEA.

- A. The restoration plea makes the churches of Christ very distinctive.
- B. We must know what we're trying to do in order to be able to persuade others of God's will for the church.
- C. The restoration plea is:
 - 1. **The book of X** (2Tim. 3:16-17).
All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.
 - 2. **The church of X** (Mt. 16:18).
"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."
 - 3. **The name of X** (Ac. 11:26).
...and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.
 - 4. **The authority of X** (Mt. 28:18).
And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
 - 5. **The creed of X**, it is Who, not what (1Cor. 2:2; 2Tim. 1:12).
(1Cor 2:2) For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. (2Tim 1:12) For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.
 - 6. **The ordinances of X:**
The Lord's Supper (death); baptism (burial); and the Lord's Day (resurrection) (1Cor. 15:1-4). Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
 - 7. **The terms of admission** (Mk. 16:16).
"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."
 - 8. **The worship** (Jn. 4:24).
"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

9. **The life that honors X** (Rom. 12:12).

...rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,...

- D. All these things make up the restoration plea of which this congregation and other churches of **X** are a part.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We need to do Bible things in Bible ways.
- B. We need to call Bible things by Bible names.
- C. We need to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.
- D. As Thomas Campbell said:
 - We need to have unity in doctrine,
 - liberty in opinion, and
 - in all things love.
- E. We need to always turn to Jesus for salvation.
- F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.