

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 3:20-21**.
- B. 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.
- C. They wished to restore, that is bring back the originality, uniqueness, and unmistakable characteristics of the first century church.
- D. Tonight is the final lesson in this three part series. We look at some things that we have done well in the restoration and some things we yet need to work on.

I. THE RESTORATION PRINCIPLE IN PRACTICE.

- A. Beginning Marks.
 - 1. The founder is X (Mt. 16:18).
 - 2. The place was Jerusalem (Ac. 2:5).
 - 3. The time was approx. 33 A.D.
 - 4. The head is X (Eph. 1:22-23).
- B. Unity.
 - 1. One body or church (1Cor. 12:12-13).
- C. Organization.
 - 1. Elders (Eph. 4:11-16).
 - 2. Deacons.
 - 3. Evangelists.
 - 4. Teachers.
 - 5. Other members.
- D. Names.
 - 1. For the church:
 - a. "church of god" (1Cor. 1:2).
 - b. "bride of Christ" (Rev. 21:2).
 - c. "churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16).
 - d. "church of the first-born" (Heb. 12:23).
 - e. "body of Christ" (Col. 1:24).
 - f. "house of God" (1Tim. 3:15).
 - 2. For God's people:
 - a. "Christians" (Ac. 11:26).
 - b. "Saints" (Rom. 1:7).
 - c. "Children" (Gal. 3:26).
 - d. "Disciples" (Jo. 16:8).
 - e. "Priests" (1Pet. 2:5,9).
 - f. "Brethren" (Gal. 6:1).
- E. Rule of Faith.
 - 1. Not the creeds and dogmas of men, but the word of God (Gal. 1:6-9).
 - 2. The seed that "grows Xians" is the word of God (Lk. 8:11).
- F. Worship.
 - 1. The Lord's Supper (Ac. 20:7; 2:42).
 - 2. Bible Study (Ac. 20:7; 2:42).
 - 3. Prayer (1Thess. 5:17; Ac. 2:42).
 - 4. Singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
 - 5. Giving (1Cor. 16:1,2).
- G. Membership.
 - 1. One of the major issues of the restoration movement was who is a Xian and who isn't? What role does baptism play in conversion? How does the HS work to convict sinners?
 - 2. Through study the Bible answered all these questions and But the plan of salvation was clearly seen. Faith, repentance, confession, and baptism bring one into a saved relationship with God.
- H. Mission.
 - 1. Preaching the gospel to the whole world (Eph. 3:16; Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15).
 - 2. Teaching the saved so that they might mature in X.
 - 3. Doing benevolent work to physically help the less fortunate.

II. THE CONTINUING CHALLENGE.

A. Five Successes.

1. The immersion of believers was the exclusive practice of the early church.
2. The observance of the Lord's Supper on each first day of the week.
3. Vocal music that only "makes melody in your heart."
4. The local churches were free and autonomous.
5. A complete return to the Bible, and the Bible alone for religious authority.

B. Five Failures.

1. Apathy instead of the compassion of Jesus, as displayed in the gospels (Mt. 9:36).
 - a. It is too easy in our affluent society to turn away from the real needs of people.
 - b. True compassion is a motivating force to do what is right.
2. Motivation from our love for God, not just a desire to "miss hell" (2Cor. 5:14).
 - a. Have we become complacent?
 - b. Do we only desire to have just enough religious to save us, but not enough motivate us?
3. The lack of evangelistic fervor (early Xians "went everywhere..." (Ac. 8:4).
 - a. Too many times we have delegated that job to the preacher, or missionary.
 - b. Our fellowship is but holding its own numerically, why?
4. The lack love one for another, so that we can remain in peace (Eph. 4:3).
 - a. Divisions and splinter groups exists and this should not be se.
 - b. We have allowed matter of opinion to divide us for far too long.
5. Not having a lifestyle that tells the world that we are saved by grace (Eph. 2:8,9).
 - a. Why does the world think, that we think, "we are the only ones going to heaven?"
 - b. Instead of a lifestyle of law and legalism, we need to show more grace.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. See Jer. 6:16.

Thus says the LORD, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you shall find rest for your souls.

B. A united Christendom can win the world! One of the great detriments to evangelism is a divided church. The world will know that we are truly Xians when we live and worship in unity.

C. Lesson One of this series stressed:

1. The pattern of doctrine found in the NT.
2. "In doctrine unity, in opinion liberty, and in all things love."
3. "Speak where the Bible speaks, be silent where the Bible is silent."

D. Lesson Two of this series stressed:

1. Jesus' great prayer and plea for the unity of all who would believe.
2. Paul's writings about the ground, gifts, and growth in unity.

E. Tonight's lesson stressed:

1. There are some things we have done well in restoring.
2. There are some things we have yet to do to be like the first century church.

F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.