

Restoration Plea

— Returning to God's Pattern —

- Restoring New Testament Christianity
- Restoring the New Testament Church
- Restoring New Testament Worship
- Restoring the Work of the Church

Our subject this morning is entitled: “**Restoration Plea**”.

This lesson is an old-fashioned plea, for restoring New Testament Christianity in belief, practice, and purpose — by **Going Back**, to the Bible alone.

So, why Restoration?

To restore, means to return something, to its original condition or design — and in spiritual matters, this means **Going Back** to the Bible, to **Follow** God's original pattern, **NOT** man's alterations.

In a **Religious World**, filled with division, traditions of men, and innovation, many have **DRIFTED** far, from the simplicity and purity of **New Testament Christianity**.

But God is not the author of confusion ([1Cor.14:33](#)), and He has provided a pattern in His Word ([Heb.8:5](#)), that can still be followed today.

This lesson is a plea — **NOT** for reformation, **NOT** for modernization — but for **RESTORATION**: — a **RETURN** to Biblical Christianity.

As Jeremiah pleaded with God's people:

- “Thus saith the Lord, **STAND** ye in the ways, and **SEE**, and **ASK** for the old paths, where is the good way, and **WALK** therein...” ([Jer.6:16](#))

Let us now explore the path of restoration, by considering four vital areas.

We'll begin with...

I. Restoring New Testament Christianity

Before any restoration can begin, we must be clear, on who is Lord and who has authority.

A. Christ is the Only Foundation

- “For other foundation, can No man lay, than that is laid, which IS Jesus Christ.” ([1Cor.3:11](#))

Jesus is the sole foundation, for all faith and practice.

No pope, prophet, council, or creed, can add to, Nor take from His authority ([Prov.30:6](#); [Rev.22:18-19](#)).

- God, “gave Him to be the **Head**, over all things to the **Church**, which is His **Body**...” ([Eph.1:22-23](#))

Christianity must be built on Christ alone, not man-made systems or religious innovations.

Many today, follow religion because of emotional experiences, tradition, or family heritage, But...

B. The Gospel — Is Our Only Call

The Bible says,

- “Whereunto He called you, **by** our **Gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory, of our Lord Jesus Christ.” ([2Thess.2:14](#))

God saves through His message — **NOT** through man's imagination or denominational systems.

- Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the **Gospel of Christ**: for it, is the POWER of God, unto Salvation...” ([Rom.1:16](#); see also [1Cor.15:1-4](#); [Jas.1:21](#))

We are **NOT Called**, by emotional appeal or personal belief, but by the **GOSPEL** alone.

Restoration means, submitting to God's Word in everything.

C. Authority is Speaking Where the Bible Speaks

- “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” ([1Pet.4:11](#))
- “And whatsoever ye **Do** in **Word** (that is, **Teaching**) or **Deed** (that is, **Practice**), **Do All** in the **Name** of (or **Authority** of) the Lord Jesus...” ([Col.3:17](#))

The silence of Scripture, is not permission; it is restriction.

- “For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe, Moses **Spake Nothing** concerning priesthood.” ([Heb.7:14](#); see also [Lev.10:1-2](#))
- Therefore, both what the Bible says — and what it does not say — matter deeply to God.

New Testament Christianity is **RESTORED**, when we **HONOUR** the silence and speech of Scripture, alike.

New Testament Christianity **Begins** with Jesus Christ, is **Grounded** in the gospel, and is **Bound** by the authority of Scripture. Any restoration, must start here.

But honoring Christ's authority, also means submitting to His conditions for salvation — not man's. Restoring New Testament Christianity Includes,

D. Restoring the Plan of Salvation

Many today, **Focus** on a single verse or **Cling** to religious tradition, and prematurely arrive at a conclusion, that is NOT the full truth, of New Testament Christianity.

Some claim that “grace alone” saves, or that “only the blood of Christ is required”.

Others teach a “faith only” system, that requires no action, on man's part.

- But the Bible says, “**The Sum of Thy Word IS Truth...**” ([Psa.119:160](#), ASV)
- Paul said, “**I have not shunned to declare unto you, ALL** (or, the WHOLE) **Counsel of God.**” ([Acts 20:27](#))

To truly restore New Testament Christianity, we must restore the whole counsel of God on the subject of salvation — not just part of it.

Salvation Is by God's Grace — but Not Grace Alone.

God indeed provides salvation through His,

- **Grace** ([Eph.2:8](#)), **Mercy** ([Titus 3:5](#)), the **Blood of Christ** ([Eph.1:7](#); [1Pet.1:18–20](#); [Rev.1:5](#)), and the **Gospel message** ([Rom.1:16](#); [1Cor.15:1–4](#); [Jas.1:21](#)).
- These are God's responsibilities, and without them, no man could ever be saved.

But God also calls man to respond — Man's Role Is to Respond in Faithful Obedience.

The gospel calls us to:

- **Hear** the Word ([Rom.10:17](#))
- **Believe** in Christ ([Heb.11:6](#); [Jn.8:24](#))
- Be moved with **godly Sorrow**, that leads to **Repentance** ([2Cor.7:10](#); [Acts 11:18](#); [Lk.13:3](#))
- **Confess** Christ as Lord ([Rom.10:9–10](#); [Acts 8:37](#); [Matt.10:32–33](#))
- **Baptism** into Christ for the remission of sins ([Acts 22:16](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [1Pet.3:21](#); [Gal.3:26–27](#); [Acts 2:38](#))
- And finally, to **Remain Faithful** unto death ([Matt.10:22](#); [Rev.2:10](#))

When one obeys the gospel, the Lord Himself adds them to His church ([Acts 2:47](#)),

Which demonstrates that salvation and being part of Christ's body (or church) are inseparable.

This is not man, earning salvation — it is man, receiving it, on God's terms.

- “**Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience, by the things which He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the AUTHOR of eternal salvation unto all them that OBEY Him.**” ([Heb.5:8–9](#))

Restoration Requires Returning to God's Full Plan.

Restoring New Testament Christianity means restoring God's pattern for how man is reconciled to Him — not by man's thoughts, but by God's Thoughts, revealed in His Word

- “For **My Thoughts** are **NOT** your thoughts, **NEITHER** are your ways **My Ways**, saith the Lord.
9 For **AS** the heavens are **HIGHER** than the earth, so are **My Ways** **HIGHER** than your ways,
and **My Thoughts** (are HIGHER) than your thoughts.” ([Isa.55:8-9](#)).
- “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man,
but the end thereof, are the ways of death.” ([Prov.14:12](#))
- “He that believeth **AND** is baptized shall be **SAVED**...” ([Mk.16:16](#))

When both **God's part** and **man's response** are understood together,
the full beauty of salvation, by grace through faith — an obedient, living faith — is **RESTORED!**

But even when people obey the gospel,
— if they remain divided, by man-made doctrines and denominations,
— then full restoration, is still lacking.

To restore New Testament Christianity,
we must also restore the unity, for which Christ prayed, and the apostles pleaded.

Let's now consider...

E. Restoring Biblical Unity

The religious world today is filled with denominations, and divided teachings
— each claiming to follow Christ,
— but often teaching, **different** gospels, **different** worship practices, and **different** paths to salvation.

Christ did not build many churches, teaching different doctrines.

- “There is **ONE** body, and **ONE** Spirit, even as ye are called in **ONE** hope of your calling;
ONE Lord, **ONE** faith, **ONE** baptism, **ONE** God and Father of all...” ([Eph.4:4-6](#))

Jesus prayed for unity — not division (read [Jn.17:20-21](#)).

Unity is only possible, when we lay down man-made creeds and opinions and return to the Bible alone.
Paul pleaded with the divided church at Corinth:

- He said, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name (or authority) of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that ye all **Speak** the **SAME** thing, and that there be **NO** divisions among you;
but that ye be **PERFECTLY** joined together in the **SAME** mind and in the **SAME** judgment.” ([1Cor.1:10](#))

Restoration calls us back to that unity — **NOT** union in diversity, but **Unity in Truth**.

The early Christians were united in doctrine, worship, and purpose:

- The Bible says, “they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship,
and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” ([Acts 2:42](#))

When we speak, where the Bible speaks ([1Pet.4:11](#)), and are silent, where it is silent ([Lev.10:1-2](#); [Heb.7:14](#)),
we can enjoy, the unity of the Spirit, in the bond of peace ([Eph.4:3](#)).

Restoring New Testament Christianity, requires **Rejecting** denominational division
and **Returning** to the One faith, the One gospel, and the One spiritual body, that Jesus established.

While Christ calls us to unity, that unity must be rooted, in His design for the church
— not in compromise or confusion.

Now that we've seen the foundation of true Christianity

— Jesus Christ, the gospel, the authority of Scripture, His plan of salvation, and His call to unity

— we must ask: what kind of church did He build?

— What does that church look like today, when restored?"

II. Restoring the New Testament Church

Involves the identity and structure of Christ's church.

In a world of thousands of denominations or man-made religions, we must remember,

A. Christ Built One Church — Not Many

- Jesus said, "...I will build My church (singular)..." ([Matt.16:18](#))
- "There is **ONE** body (or church)... **ONE** Lord, **ONE** faith, **ONE** baptism..." ([Eph.4:4-5](#))
- "For by **ONE** Spirit, are we all baptized into ONE body (or church)..." ([1Cor.12:13](#))

So, Christ built one church — His body — and He (not man) adds the saved to it ([Acts 2:47](#)).

Names matter to God.

The name we wear, should reflect our ownership and identity.

B. The Church Wears His Name

— Not names of men.

Long ago, it was prophesied...

- "...thou shalt be called by a **New NAME**, which the mouth of the Lord shall **Name**." ([Isa.62:2](#))
- The Bible says, "The **churches of Christ**, salute you." ([Rom.16:16](#))
- "**Neither** is there salvation, **IN** any other:
for there is **None other name** under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved." ([Acts 4:12](#))

The Biblical name, "**church of Christ**" ([Rom.16:16](#)),

reflects our **Submission** to Christ and **Rejection** of man-made labels or religious denominations.

God's design for church leadership is simple, local, and Christ-centered.

Restoring the New Testament church, includes...

C. Scriptural Organization of the Church

The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi ([Phil.1:1](#)),

- "to all the **SAINTS** (that is, all Christians in that local congregation)
IN Christ Jesus, which are **at Philippi** (singular), with the **BISHOPS** and **DEACONS** (plural)."
Note: the word bishop, means overseer.

The Bible says,

- "...ordain **ELDERS** in every city..." ([Titus 1:5](#))
- "...ordained them **ELDERS**, in every church..." ([Acts 14:23](#))

In [Acts 20:17](#), Paul

- "sent to Ephesus, and called the **ELDERS** (plural) of the church (singular)."

In [Acts 20:28](#), he told them,

- "take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the **flock** (singular),
over which the Holy Spirit hath made you **overseers** (plural)."

Therefore elders, bishops and overseers are the same, and always consisted of, more than one, at each location; but what is “ALL THE FLOCK” which they are “OVER”?

Peter through the Holy Spirit explains in ([1Pet.5:2](#)):

- “Feed the flock of God which is **AMONG YOU**, taking the oversight thereof,”

So, the oversight of elders is always limited to the location where they are members ([1Cor.12:27](#)) — “among you” ([1Pet.5:2](#)).

- NOT the church in a neighboring city, state or another country.
- There is NO inter-congregational oversight on earth
- and There was NO single treasury of multiple churches, in the first century

Elder’s have authority to:

- Pay a preacher for his work ([1Cor.9:4-14](#); [2Cor.11:8-9](#); [1Tim.4:12-15](#)).
- Give direct support for a preacher’s work ([Phil.4:5](#); [2Cor.11:8](#); [1Cor.16:17](#); [Acts 18:1-3](#)).
- But unless that preacher is “among” them, in the same assembly, where they are members, It is not oversight that the elders have, but fellowship or joint participation ([Phil.1:5](#)).

These Bible passages and Biblical principles, would **Eliminate** the man-made:

- **Sponsoring church arrangement**, where many churches, work through one church;
- The papal or **catholic system** of faith, overseeing all churches;
- And the denominational one-man **pastoral system**, where only one man, oversees one church.

This divine restriction, ensures local accountability and prevents the rise of man-made hierarchies. Restoring the church, means restoring the Biblical structure — autonomous, elder-led congregations.

The New Testament pattern shows a local congregation consisting of all the saints, served by deacons, and overseen by a plurality of elders. This complete arrangement—**christians, deacons, and elders** ([Phil.1:1](#)) —was God’s design for maintaining order, unity, and faithfulness in every church.

The New Testament church is unique, in its oneness, name, and organization.

Restoration rejects division and **Honors** God's original design.

But being the right church is not enough — we must also worship in the right way.

The early church didn’t just have the right structure; they had the right approach, to honoring God in worship Let’s now consider...

III. Restoring New Testament Worship

— which is not based on feelings or tradition, but by divine instruction.

- The Bible says, “**But the hour cometh, and now is, when the TRUE Worshipers shall WORSHIP the Father, in spirit and in truth: for the Father SEEKETH such, to worship Him.** ²⁴ **God IS a Spirit: and they that worship Him, MUST worship Him, IN Spirit and IN Truth.”** ([Jn.4:23-24](#))

The early church, sang from the heart— not with harps, pianos, or bands.

And so, restoring New Testament worship, would include...

A. Singing — Without Instruments

- The Bible says, “**Speaking to yourselves** (which includes words), **in psalms and hymns and spiritual Songs, Singing and making melody** (greek: psallo) **in your heart, to the Lord;”** ([Eph.5:19](#))

The Greek word for “making melody” is “psallo”, which means “to pluck”, but in the N.T. context, the instrument specified is the heart — not strings or pipes.

The Bible says,

- “Let the **Word of Christ**, dwell in you richly, in all wisdom; **Teaching and Admonishing** one another, in psalms and hymns and spiritual Songs, **Singing** with grace, in your hearts to the Lord.” ([Col.3:16](#))
- “Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips...” ([Heb.13:15](#))
- “I will **Sing** with the spirit, and I will **Sing** with the understanding also.” ([1Cor.14:15b](#))

Restoring New Testament Worship would EXCLUDE,

- playing an instrument, humming, yodling, whistling or engaged in hand clapping,
- As such does not teach spiritual truths ([Col.3:16](#)) and such cannot be understood ([1Cor.14:15](#)).

Instrumental music was added by men — not God.

Restoration — brings us back to vocal praise.

Public prayer was a vital part of worship.

Restoring new testament worship, would include...

B. Praying — In Reverence and Unity

The Bible says,

- “Pray without ceasing.” ([1Thess.5:17](#))
- “I will therefore that men pray every where...” ([1Tim.2:8](#))
- “And they continued stedfastly... in prayers.” ([Acts 2:42](#))

Prayer expresses our dependence on God ([Phil.4:6-7](#)) and must be offered according to His will ([Jas.4:3](#)).

True worship includes bold, Bible-centered teaching — NOT entertainment or story telling.

Restoring New Testament Worship, would include...

C. Preaching — from the Word of God

- The Bible says, “Paul **Preached** unto them... until midnight.” ([Acts 20:7](#))
- “**Preach the Word**; be instant in season, out of season; **Reprove, Rebuke, Exhort...**” ([2Tim.4:2](#))

Restoration, calls for doctrinally sound preaching, rooted in Scripture.

Restoring new testament worship, would include...

D. Giving — On the First Day of the Week

— not based on gimmicks or pressure.

The Bible says,

- “Now concerning the **COLLECTION** for the saints, as I have **given ORDER** to the churches of Galatia, **even so DO ye.** ² Upon the **FIRST day of the week**, let **every one** of you, **Lay By him in Store** (which is a common treasury store house), **as God hath PROSPERED him**, that there be no gatherings when I come.” ([1Cor.16:1-2](#))
- “**Every man**, according as he **PURPOSETH in his heart**, so let him **GIVE**; **NOT grudgingly**, or of necessity: for God Loveth a **cheerful Giver.**” ([2Cor.9:7](#))

No tithes, raffles, or sales — just simple, weekly, sacrificial giving.

The early church was found,

E. Observing the Lord's Supper — Weekly

The Bible says,

- “upon the **FIRST day of the week**, when **the disciples came together, to break bread**, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.” ([Acts 20:7](#))
- Paul wrote, “For I have received of the Lord, that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread:
²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: **this DO in Remembrance of Me.**

²⁵ After the same manner, also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in My blood: this **DO** ye, as oft as ye drink it, **IN Remembrance of Me.**

²⁶ For as often as ye **Eat this bread**, and **Drink this cup**, ye do **shew the Lord's death till He come.**
²⁷ Wherefore whosoever shall **Eat this bread**, and **Drink this cup of the Lord** (or the Contents of the cup), **Unworthily**, shall be **Guilty** of the body and blood of the Lord.

²⁸ But let a man **Examine himself**, and so let him **Eat of that bread**, and **Drink of that cup.**
²⁹ For he that eateth and drinketh Unworthily, eateth and drinketh **Damnation to himself**, **NOT Discerning the Lord's body.**” ([1Cor.11:23-29](#))

So, to rightly discern the Lord's body, in remembrance of Him, is Critical!

In Summary, [Acts 20:7](#) shows purpose and intent:

- The church came together to break bread.
- This speaks of the Lord's Supper as the **Focal Point** of the assembly.

[1Cor.11:20–34](#), teaches the Lord's Supper, was a **Central Concern** when the church came together:

- “When ye **come together** therefore **into one place**, this is **NOT to eat** the Lord's supper...” ([1Cor.11:20](#))
- Paul rebuked them for not treating it as the **Focus**, it should be.

The heart of the Lord's Supper, is Remembrance of Christ's death.

- “This **DO in Remembrance of Me**” ([1Cor.11:24](#))

So, while all five acts of worship are important and authorized, the Lord's Supper stands uniquely, as the reason Christians came together on the first day of the week, according to apostolic precedent.

That does not diminish the importance of singing, praying, teaching, or giving — these are essential and God-ordained — but the Lord's Supper is the **Centerpiece** of the Sunday Worship assembly.

Communion, is a sacred memorial — done weekly, solemnly, and scripturally.

Restoring worship, means returning to the Biblical pattern:

singing, praying, preaching, giving, and partaking of the Lord's Supper — all without alteration or innovation.

Worship is just one part of God's purpose for the church.
Beyond worship, God has also given the church specific work to do
— work that brings Him glory, builds up the saints, and reaches the lost.

Let's now examine, that divine assignment.

IV. Restoring the Work of the Church

— is a Restoration Plea, of Returning to God's Pattern.

Our Work must bring glory to God,

- “unto Him, be **Glory IN the Church**,
by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages (not just the 1st century), world without end. Amen.” ([Eph.3:21](#))

Restoring the work of the church, includes...

A. Evangelism — or Spreading the Gospel

From [Phil.4:15–16](#), we learn that,

- Paul praises the church at Phillipi, for supporting gospel preaching.

The Bible says,

- “For from you, sounded out the word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place, your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not, to speak any thing.” ([1Thess.1:8](#))
- The Bible confirms, “...the house of God, which is **the church** of the living God, **the pillar and ground of the Truth.**” ([1Tim.3:15](#); [Eph.3:9-11](#))

The only institution that has authority,

- to sound out the Word of the Lord and spread their faith abroad ([1Thess.1:8](#)),
- is the church that Jesus purchased with His own blood ([Acts 20:28](#)).

Yes, an individual can do his or her own work, but an individual is NOT an organization.
In case it is not clear, so-called brotherhood publications and brotherhood colleges
Are NOT the pillar and ground of the Truth!

Churches must focus their funds and efforts, on evangelizing the lost,

— not entertaining themselves, nor propagating man-made institutions, to do the work of the church.

Another work of the church, is spiritual growth among its members.

Restoring the work of the church, includes...

B. Edification — or Building Up the Saints

The Bible says,

- God, “gave some, **Apostles**; and some, **Prophets**; and some, **Evangelists**; and some, **Pastors and Teachers**; ¹² for the **PERFECTING** of the saints, for the **WORK** of the ministry, for the **EDIFYING** of the body (or church) of Christ.” ([Eph.4:11-12](#))
- “and let us **CONSIDER** one another, to **PROVOKE** unto love and to good works:
²⁵ **NOT** forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but **EXHORTING** one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” ([Heb.10:24-25](#))
- “...the Word of His Grace... is able to **Build you Up**...” ([Acts 20:32](#))

Edification includes teaching, mutual encouragement, and faithful assembly.

The Bible confirms, the church helps needy members — NOT as a welfare agency, but as a spiritual family. Restoring the work of the church, includes...

C. Benevolence — or Assisting Needy Christians

The Bible confirms,

- “...to **send relief** unto the **brethren...**” ([Acts 11:29-30](#))
- “...**collection for the saints...**” ([1Cor.16:1](#))
- “...**contribution for the poor saints...**” ([Rom.15:25-26](#))
- “If any man or woman that **believeth** have widows, let them **relieve** them, and **let not the church be charged**; that it may **relieve** them that are **widows indeed.**” ([1Tim.5:16](#))

So, **Benevolence** is purposeful and limited, to what God authorizes.

While the **church treasury** is limited to helping needy saints (or christians), **individual Christians** should also do good to all, as they have opportunity ([Gal.6:10](#); [Rom.12:20](#); [Lk.6:35](#)).

The New Testament church is authorized to evangelize, edify, and aid saints in need — not entertain, politicize, or expand beyond divine boundaries.

V. Some Final Thoughts

We’ve now traced God’s pattern across many critical areas

— our foundation in Christ, the identity of His church, the way we worship, and the work we do.

What remains is this:

- Will we **FOLLOW** that Pattern?
- Will we **JOIN** the Restoration?
- Will we **MAINTAIN** the Biblical Restoration?

We seek to honor God, NOT by doing what we like, but by doing what He said.

— as His Word is all sufficient ([2Tim.3:16-17](#)).

The Bible says,

- “Whosoever **Transgresseth**, and **Abideth NOT** in the doctrine of Christ, hath **NOT** God...” ([2Jn.vs.9](#))
- “See... that thou **MAKE** all things, according to The PATTERN...” ([Heb.8:5](#))

Whether in our **Faith**, our **Worship**, our **Name**, or our **Work**

— the Bible provides a pattern

— And restoration means, following that pattern.

God is still calling us today — **NOT** to create something new, but to **RETURN** to what He originally revealed.

The choice before us, is not between tradition and innovation, but between human will and **God’s will**.

May God help us, to go forward, by going back — back to the Bible.

If you have a spiritual need, **The Lord invites**, and we await to assist.

Won’t you **Come**...

Believing (Heb.11:6), Repenting (Lk.13:3), Confessing (Acts 8:37) , and Be Baptized INTO Christ (Gal.3:26-27)
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...while we stand and sing.