



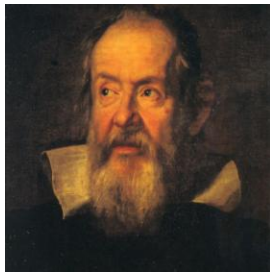
The Christian Church Family Tree

A Study on the History of the Church by Dr. Harley Ihm

Lesson 9: Further Division and the Restoration Movement AD 1609-Present Day

Opening: What do you think was good about the reformation movement we studied last month? What was not so good about the movement? Why do you think it fell short of the mark when it was led by godly men all driven by their love for the Word of God?

Tonight we are going to explore another awakening within Christianity. The idea is formed that it is time for a restoration of the true faith of Christ. They wanted to forget reforming. That meant starting where you are and working back. Rather they wanted to go back to the church's beginnings and simply restore what the Apostles built by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. That is still a holy idea. However, we will see that they hit a lot of bumps along the way. But first, we need to go back and see some further division that shook the church to the core.



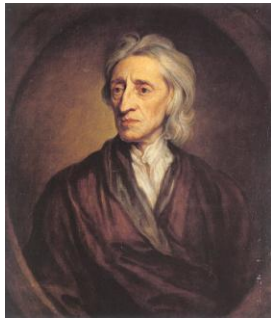
1. AD 1609 Galileo – the professor of math at Pisa University heard about a new invention by the Dutch. It was called a spyglass. He made one much more powerful than the first ones. His was so powerful he discovered our universe, far beyond what was thought to exist. He saw craters and mountains on the moon, dark patches on the sun, satellites around Jupiter and Saturn, and Venus moving like the moon. He said, “A gateway and a road are opened to a new and more excellent knowledge.”

Aristotle, the Church Fathers, common sense, and supposedly the Scriptures all agreed that the earth was a fixed point at the center of the universe. The phases of Venus and other discoveries proved Copernicus right: the sun, not the earth, is the center around which everything revolves. The Church was not about to allow scientists to mess with their beliefs anymore than the Calvinists. They pointed out that the Bible says the God ‘laid the foundation of the earth, that it should never be moved.’ Did it also not say that God made the sun and moon stand still?



2.

AD 1689–1730 – The Age of Reason - When the apple dropped on a farm where Isaac Newton was living, the world changed. Gravity in itself was not such a big discovery but 20 years later when Newton published his studies he concluded that from a few simple equations, you could use gravity's principle to determine the movement of everything from planets and seas to fruit. Newton was a very unorthodox Christian who scoured the design of Solomon's Temple for clues about the second coming. His physics grew out of his belief in a rational orderly Creator. However, pointing out the machinery of the universe was a blow to the idea that God was directly dictating every event.



and in our Scriptures.

The mystery of the universe is being replaced by a rationale understanding of it. At the same time an English philosopher named John Locke argued for a 'reasonable Christianity' that would remove mystery, blind faith in authority, leave out the miracles of Jesus, ethical living and life after death. His ideas launched the enlightenment, the quest to remake the world according to reason. Man can figure it all out given time. Without miracles, no one would have believed Jesus or the Apostles or the early church. They defied reason! That is why God put them in history

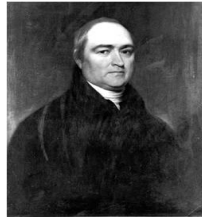


3. The Great Awakening in America - The French and Indian War and the American Revolution had so disturbed the ideals and customs of the people that their regular observance of the Lord's Day and church services and ministering was widely disregarded. The British and French soldiers had extremely low morality and introduced a skepticism of God. The French introduced Americans to the writings of Voltaire and the intelligent people fell victim to

this worship of human reasoning. They began to denounce religion as a system of fraud and tricks that ignorant people are victimized by. Man was here for one reason, to be happy. Nothing else mattered to the young people of the day. The rich and educated were the most vulnerable. Young people began Infidel Clubs. There they studied the works of Voltaire, Volney, Tom Paine and pursued pleasures without limits. The late 1700's looked a lot like Woodstock!

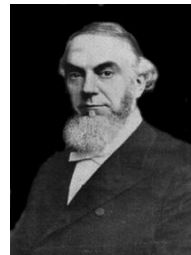
4. **Great Revival (1800-1860)** – In January of 1795, 23 New England ministers sent out letters calling ministers and churches to pray for a revival on the 1st Tuesday of every month for a year. If God does not grant it, keep it up year after year until He does. God wants revival and His people have to pray, they have to care, to get involved. The President of Yale Univ. was Timothy Dwight.

Yale. In 1802, Lord. The enlightened. That would be like a



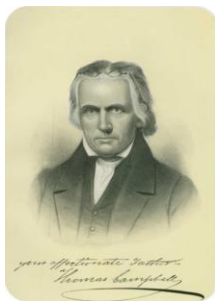
He began to preach Christ boldly in the chapel at hundreds of Yale students accepted Jesus Christ as enlightened were actually becoming truly was the beginning of a great revival in America that bonfire across the country for 60 years.

5. **Great Deception (1864-1904)** - Charles T. Russell, Jehovah's Witnesses, wrote a 6 volume called **Studies in Scriptures** (originally **Millennial** their writings that no Christian should study the the Millennial Dawn commentaries beside them for interpretation. If you couldn't have the Bible and together, then just use the commentaries. They important source to keep you from misinterpreting the Bible. That is no different than what was going on in the 4th century. That is how we get in trouble. That's why at our Bible colleges at OCC, JBC and DCC, Lincoln, Cincinnati, and others, we don't teach what to believe. We teach the Hermeneutics, How to Interpret the Bible Class so people will learn how to interpret Scripture accurately and allow them to do it. Every Christian should be a great student of the Bible. God always raises up people throughout history to call the church back to Jesus' truth.



founder of The commentary series **Dawn**). I read from Bible without having accurate the Commentaries were the most

Question to Consider – Does God raise up people today to call the church back to the Apostles' teaching? That is the purpose of the Restoration Movement we are a part of.



6. **Thomas Campbell** – His dad was from Scotland, but moved to Ireland. Thomas grew up in Ireland. As a married adult, he had health problems and the doctors said he should take an ocean voyage and come to America. In 1807 Thomas Campbell left his family behind until he could get settled and headed for America. He was an ordained Old Light Anti-Berger Seceder Presbyterian Minister and was a great man of God and a student of the Scripture.

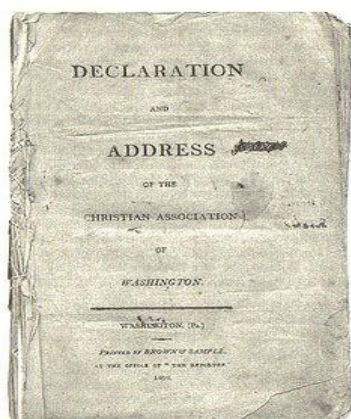
- a. **His denomination** – John Knox established the Presbyterian Church in 1560 as the official Church of Scotland. Much later, the Scottish state church came to a decision that it assumed all rights to appoint the appropriate minister to a church without the church's consent. (How would you like that?) This caused a major division and many churches refused to allow it and they seceded from the Presbyterian Church of Scotland and became known as the Seceder Presbyterian Church. There were now 2 branches of Presbyterians.

In 1747, the Burgess, the town representative from the House of Burgess, required an oath from all towns and people that their town would stay true to the official religion of the state. Those submitting became known as the Bergers, Others refused and became the anti-bergers. So now we have the Presbyterian Church, the Seceder Presbyterian Church Bergers, and the Seceder Presbyterian Church Anti-Bergers. But it wasn't over.

In 1795 there was an argument over the power of the civil magistrate to get involved in religion. Guess what? Split, so now we have the Presbyterian Church, the Seceder Presbyterian Church Bergers, and the Seceder Presbyterian Church Anti-Bergers, the Old Light Anti-berger Seceders Presbyterians and the New Light Anti-berger Seceders Presbyterians. I imagine Thomas Campbell the OLABSP was ready to leave Scotland.

- b. His first major problem in America** – In 1796 the Presbyterian Synod passed an act prohibiting “Occasional Communion” or communion with other bodies of Christians. Campbell was preaching for the Anti-Burghers in Pennsylvania near Pittsburg. He was asked to go out and visit other Anti-Burghers. In 1807, only a few months after he began preaching in America, many of the people he had ministered to came to hear him preach on communion Sunday. They were eager to share in the Lord’s Supper. But there was a big problem. Were they Presbyterian? Yes. Seceder? Yes. Anti-Burgher? Yes. Were they Old Light? No. Some of the people were New Light Anti-Burgher Seceder Presbyterian and Campbell allowed them to take the Lord’s Supper with them! What is wrong with that picture?

Ques – To whom does the Lord’s Supper belong? Who did He say should take the Lord’s Supper? (Point out it is not for children who have not accepted Christ. It’s for those who can examine themselves and their purpose for doing it. Christians.)



c. The Declaration and Address – In 1809 a meeting was set for people who just wanted to follow the Bible. Thomas Campbell prayed for God’s guidance. He showed how men had not been satisfied with simply the Bible’s teachings & added religious theories, opinions, & speculations. He insisted upon a simple return to the teachings of Scripture & to abandon everything religious that was NOT produced by God. He concluded by saying, “Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; and where they are silent, we are silent.” It was so simple, yet so profound the people were moved and excited.

Question – Why do you suppose there are so many different groups of Christianity?

- 7. The Christian Assoc. of Washington** - On August 17, 1809, a fellowship was formed called “The Christian Assoc. of Washington.” 21 members worked with Campbell to work out a

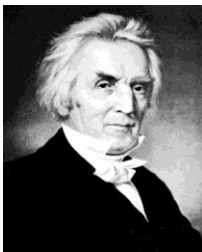
purpose statement, principles & a program. The Declaration and Address was created. It was the basis of the movement to restore NT Christianity, the same goal we are a part of. Here are some of the basics from the document:

- a. **The Authority of the Holy Scripture.** All truth must come from the Bible only. Everything else is subject for debate as to its place in the church. This is especially addressed at traditions that are held as if God created them.
- b. **All sectarianism is evil.** Christ alone should unite people. Leave our opinions out of the doctrines of the Church. This is the same issue Paul addresses in the church at Corinth. It has never been resolved. That is our goal as a Christian Church, to unite on Christ and His Word alone.
- c. **The way to the peace and unity Jesus prayer for is through conformity to the teachings of the Bible.** Take Scripture alone for our teacher & guide, to lead us into all truth, and Christ alone, as taught in His Word, for our salvation. Example – first split were the Jews who insisted the Gentiles became children of Abraham before they could accept Christ as Lord.
- d. **Although there are separate congregations, there should be perfect harmony and unity of spirit among all of them.**
- e. **The Bible alone is the constitution and law for every church.**
- f. **Inferences and deductions from the Scriptures, however valuable, cannot be made binding upon the conscience of Christians.**
Ex – meeting of Sunday only; how we do the Lord's Supper; music styles; who can pray in worship.



8. **Brush Run Church** - In 1811 the church was formed as an independent church without denominational affiliation, committed to following the Bible for every area of life and worship. They built a small church in rural Pennsylvania called simply the Brush Run Church. Each church in the association was independent having its own Biblical

government of Elders and Deacons. It's focus was on evangelism and ministering to the sick and needy, practicing the teaching and preaching of the Bible along with prayers and the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, just as recorded in Acts. They promoted fellowship, the building of intimate relationships, as a vital part of the church, just like we are doing with small groups. They simply looked to the record of the early church for guidance from God on matters of doctrine and practice. They wanted to just keep it simple like it was given to us by the apostles.



9. **Alexander Campbell** - In 1808, Thomas' son, Alexander, set out with the rest of the family from Ireland to America. There was a storm and the ship was torn from where it had anchored off the coast of Scotland and was driven into the rocks. They survived but were then stuck in Scotland. They had family there and Alexander had always wanted to continue his education. He enrolled in Glasgow University. He began to study Latin and Greek. As he grew in his knowledge of the Bible, he began to have problems with the teachings of the Seceder Presbyterians. While he was wrestling with these

ideas, the semi-annual communion season rolled around. In the Seceder church the elders gave out metal tokens to those acceptable to take communion. You had to have a token and drop it in the plate in order to be served the Lord's Supper. Because he was from the Ireland group, the Elders of the church called him for an examination of his beliefs before giving him a token. He passed, but it caused him to question the whole process. He took the token. When the Lord's Supper came by, he tossed the token in the basket but refused to take the emblems. This was a turning point in his faith. When he arrived in America, he began to share the story with his dad, and Thomas shared the problems with communion he had in America within the denomination and both had arrived at the same conclusion that the Lord's Supper and many other issues in the Bible had been redefined by men.

a. Infant Baptism - The next issue that began to press on both Campbell's was infant baptism. As they studied the Scripture for truth and precedent, they could never find one example of anyone being baptized who did not understand who Jesus was, what He did, and upon that belief, they confessed Jesus as Lord. Their repentance and baptism was a response to that belief. This presented a problem with the infant baptism they had practiced and taught. They also discovered that the word baptism was a transliteration of the Greek word for immerse. It was the only Greek word every used when referring to the act of water baptism in regards to salvation in Christ. When Alexander's first child was born, he had to deal with what he believed the Scripture truly taught. He chose not to baptize their newborn baby. In 1812, the minister, Alexander Campbell, his wife, Thomas Campbell and his wife and daughter, Dorothea, and Mr. & Mrs. James Hanen shocked the church when they asked the local Baptist minister to come and immerse them according to the Biblical model.

1. Matthew 16:18 – Jesus would build His church on His Word. Church is the mystical body of Christ. He is the head; King, law-giver and we are under His direction and His government. He built it and no one can change His building or plans.

Question – How has the church challenged Jesus' authority over His body? Who are the true Christians?

2. Alexander Campbell's Quote – Challenging the authority of denominations and their doctrines and creeds, Campbell said, "The true Christian Church, or house of God, is composed of all those in every place that do publicly acknowledge Jesus of Nazareth as the true Messiah, and the only Savior of men, and building themselves under the constitution which He Himself granted and authorized in the New Testament, and are walking in His ordinances and commandments—and none else." Would you agree with that statement? That is courage. That is like Martin Luther taking on the church. That is a family after God's own heart. To put His word above all they ever taught or believed. Alexander's beliefs and respect for Scripture earned him a lot of respect, especially in the Baptist churches. They began to invite him to preach in their churches. He wrote a journal called the Christian Baptist. In it he laid down some philosophy. He said, "Our journal will represent no religious group, except the group called Christians first at Antioch." its sole objective was to seek out truth, to challenge ideas, to expose error in doctrine and practice." The Baptists in

Northern KY were avid followers of his writings. People loved his passion for true Christianity or they hated him for challenging their beliefs. That is what fired me up and drove me into the ministry. I want to call the church to be Jesus, nothing more, nothing less. And in my years of ministry that has caused more love than I deserve and more hate than I deserved.

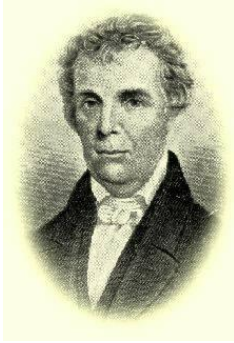


3. Owen/Campbell Debate - Campbell was approached by Robert Owen, an avowed atheist and socialist who believed religion was truly an opiate of the people, to hold a debate on atheism versus Christianity. Alexander accepted. The 2 men actually became friends who highly respected each other's reasoning and knowledge. Once Campbell was walking by a cemetery and Owen says, "One advantage I have over a Christian, I have no fear of death." Campbell responds, "You say you have no fear in death; do you have any hope in death?" Owen paused, and admitted that he did not. Campbell points to an ox standing in the field nearby and says, "Then you are on the level of that ox. He has eaten till he is satisfied, and stands in the shade whisking off the flies, and has neither hope nor fear in death." All Owen could do is grin and admit Campbell's logic did have a valid point. Great point! You cannot help someone find the answers to salvation until you help them realize they are lost!

Owen was well prepared with a 66 page manuscript of proof he was right. There was no God. Religion was worthless or worse, harmful to man. He presented his manuscript for 9 days to 1200 people packed Cincinnati's Methodist Church to hear the great debate. Now it was Campbell's turn. Campbell came only with a few questions. He presented the idea of the tabula rasa theory that man is born with a blank slate. He has no innate or natural idea of God. Therefore, how does Owen explain how man comes by this idea of God. Owen said, "by imaginations." Campbell went on to use logic for the next 12 hours over 2 days. He presented the challenge to answer the eternal questions: What is man? What is he doing here? Where is going? Then he emphasized that Christ is the answer and that without immortality there can be no hope and therefore no happiness in this world. When the debate was over, Campbell asked everyone who favored the spread of Christianity to stand. Most every one of the 1200 stood. Then he asked those who opposed the spread of Christianity to stand. Only 3 stood. After that time he was a highly sought after preacher.

The American movement to seek unity among all Christians by restoring the NT church by appealing to the Bible alone as a rule of faith and practice began to grow. **Ky** – 1847 = 403 churches. **Ohio** – 71 churches. **Indiana** – 115 churches. **Illinois** – 11,636 members. **Tennessee** – 12,285 members. **Michigan** about 1,000 members. **Wisconsin** – 500 members. **New England** – conservative churches didn't thrive. A few did but there are few restoration type churches there, even today. **New York** – 14 churches, 2000 members. **Pennsylvania** – 4,500 members. **Virginia** – 8,000. **Maryland** – 1,000. **North Carolina** – 2,500. **South Carolina** – 300. **Georgia** – 1,100. **Alabama** – 41 churches. **Mississippi** – 24 churches. **Louisiana** – 600 members. **Missouri** – 25,000 members. **Iowa** – 150 churches. **Texas** – 2,500 members. **Kansas** – 20

churches. **California** – 27 churches. **Oregon** – 38 churches. The estimated number of people who had chosen to pursue the concept of restoring the church of the Bible by 1860 in the US was more than 200,000, some have estimated it was closer to 300,000.



10. Barton Stone - Barton Stone was really cool. He was a Presbyterian minister during the great revival at Cane Ridge, KY. In 1801 a revival started and 30-40 ministers from Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist worked together. People met together and prayed for a great revival every Saturday for 1 year. God gave it. Some have estimated that as many as 30,000 people were in the woods of KY.

After the Cane Ridge revival, the Kentucky Synod called the preachers on the carpet. They had preached that Christ died for all men and not for an elect limited pre-ordained number. God wants to save everyone who comes to Christ, no exceptions. That was against the Calvinistic doctrines the denominations held to and they demanded they recant that teaching. Barton Stone, along with 4 other preachers produced a document called the Apology of the Springfield Presbytery. The document stated that you cannot tell us what the Scripture must mean and what we must preach when it is an obvious contradiction. Therefore we must withdraw from your authority and start our own Presbytery. We will call ourselves the Springfield Presbytery. This was a protest meant to wake them up, not to actually divide from them. It didn't. They tried to exist within the Presbyterian Church but within a year they realized that instead of solving a theological issue, they were causing division so they issued another document called, "The Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery." They affirm their commitment to the teaching of salvation for all by the Grace of God in Christ and state that from now on they will simply go by the name, Christian. Stone had a great joy in his faith and he believed all people could be united if they would just put the Word of God above everything else. They would have to love one another and not divide, because that's what God plainly taught us.



11. Walter Scott - Walter Scott was the youngest of the 4 men accredited with laying the foundation of the Restoration Movement in America. He was born in Scotland and came to New York City to live after completing a Bachelors degree. He moved in with his uncle and began to study Latin. Later he moved to Pennsylvania and became an assistant to a man who owned a private school. As he began to study Greek, he realized that being baptized as an infant in the Presbyterian Church, he himself had never made the choice to accept Christ as Lord as he had discovered the common practice was in the bible, nor was his baptism an immersion representing the burial and resurrection of Christ for us. This began a journey of faith for Scott. Later he would meet Alexander Campbell and discover that he and his father, Thomas, and Barton Stone had all studied themselves to a very honest and primitive form of Christianity. Scott believed the basis of the church must be an emphasis on the great confession of Peter. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Question – Do you believe everyone has grasped the depth of that statement? What do we see in the church that causes us to believe everyone doesn't really understand?

Scott is known for the 5 fingered exercise. Scott was traveling all over planting new churches. He would go to a school and when it let out, he would introduce himself to the children and ask them if they would like to learn the 5 fingered exercise. He would say, "Lift up your left hand. Now beginning with your thumb repeat after me:

Faith - repentance - baptism - remission of sins - gift of the Holy Spirit."

He would have them do it over until they memorized it. Then he would tell them to go home and teach it to their parents. When the meeting in that town started that evening, the place would be packed with people coming to see who this was and what was going on. Before long there were new believers joining together with believers from among the Free Will Baptist, Scotch Baptist, Regular Baptist, German Baptists (Dunkards), Separate Baptists, Republican Methodist, other types of Methodist, Presbyterians of all sorts, reformers and disciples all coming together to study the Bible and hold evangelistic meetings looking for unity simple on the Scripture.



12. Raccoon John Smith - A colorful character and circuit riding preacher from KY. He was part of the movement to unite all of the different groups seeking unity and faith that would please God. However, they were still divided into groups. At this meeting in Lexington, KY, several of the ministers of the various groups spoke. When Raccoon John Smith spoke he insisted that the Scriptures made it plain that all true Christians must be one: "God has but one people on earth. He has given them but one Book, and therein exhorts them to be one family. A union such as we plead for – a union of God's people on that one Book – must, then be practicable. Every Christian desires to stand complete in the whole will of God. The prayer of the Savior, and the whole tenor of His teaching, clearly show that it is God's will that his children should be united... We should no longer be Campbellites, Stonites, New Lights or Old Lights or any other kind of lights, but let us come to the Bible, and to the Bible alone, as the only bood in the world that can give us all the light we need." This was the beginning of the unity of our movement and of the Christian Church of the Bible being restored.

13. The Division of the Movement - The movement had a great impact on faith in America. Then in 1860, the United States were divided into the "slave states" and "free states." The slave states primarily in the south and free in the north. The Christian Church had sizable congregations in both the north and the south. The slavery issue at first was a matter of opinion, not faith and so it was not supposed to be something they would fight over, no matter which side they were one. Alexander Campbell had 2 young men who were poor and had no family. He bought them from a Methodist preacher. He took great care of them later set them free. The church didn't know what to do with the issue at first. They were sure it was not a problem. However, soon fathers and sons were joining the armies to fight.

Churches could have members on both sides. There was no way it could not become a bitter source of contention.

14. The Church of Christ - In the 1890's – serious division over the use of instruments in the church. The true source of division was the civil war. People had bitterness and unresolved conflict so they had to find something to make an issue rather than make peace and unity. They began a quest to seek the unity of all Christians that began the movement but now a new twist was added. They would seek unity by Scriptural precedent. That would eventually bring about a division of the Christian Church and Churches of Christ Instrumental and the Churches of Christ Non-Instrumental. Within the movement were the one-cuppers.

15. The Disciples of Christ - Another division began within the Christian Church. They too wanted to seek the unity Jesus prayed for. They believed unity could only be accomplished by mutual recognition and respect among all Christians. They believed that if they did not become a denomination they could not attain a seat on the World Council of Churches and therefore would be a sect or cult-like. In 1969, they officially declared themselves the denomination of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. They are in the group seeking to develop and implement the COCU

16. The Independent Christian Church - One branch of the Christian Church refused to become a denomination. They believed that was not a true unity. That would demand compromise and simply render the entire movement to restore NT Christianity useless. Just as in the beginning, we refuse to add to or subtract from the Christianity recorded for us in the Bible. Methods of ministry can change, but the doctrine and theology and worship of the Bible belongs to Jesus, not to man and man has no right to tamper with God's design. I believe this plea for unity is as critical today as it was 200 years ago. I also believe that there is still a great danger of people not caring what a church believes as long as it does something good for me and my family. That is why we need to understand the passion within these great servants God raised up the same what he did Matthew, Peter, Paul, Mark, John, Stephen, the early leaders like Tyndale many who were stoned to death or burned at the stake. People like Martin Luther, People like the Campbells, Stone and Scott and people like you and me.

Wouldn't it be holy and pleasing to God if we all could just passionately follow Christ and stand on the Bible alone?