

**THE  
RESTORATION  
PRINCIPLE  
(Part Three)**

# Restoration Slogans

You Can Be A Member of the  
Church You Can Read About in the  
Bible

You Can Be Just A Christian!

You can just be a member of the  
church of Christ without joining  
any denominational body.

# Restoration Slogans

- “No creed but Christ, no book but the Bible, no law but love, no name but the divine.”
- “We are only Christian, and the Bible is our only Book.”
- “Christianity should not be divided, Christ intended the creation of one church which is His body.”

# Restoration Slogans

- “Creeds divide, but Christians should be able to find agreement by standing on the Bible alone.”
- “Names of human origin divide, but Christians should find common ground by using Biblical names for the church.”

# The Principle is valid today

- The Restoration Plea of “restoring the New Testament order based upon the Bible only, will *resonate* with people if explained properly!
- Do we understand the difference between *reformation* and *restoration*?
  - We are not *Catholic, Protestant, or Jew.*

# The Principle is valid today

- How do *you* explain it?
- Use Ecc 5:1 as a good Bible principle.
  - “Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; not knowing you are doing evil.”
  - Should we seek to attend the church of *our choice*?
  - Should we come to terms with God on *His terms or our own*?

# The Restoration Must Take Root in Three Important Ways:

- *Individually!*
- *Congregationally!*
- *Generationally!*

# Some Conclusions:

- The principle is simple, but its applications are sometimes difficult.  
*Sincere folks do differ.*
- In many ways we have lost our way, and at least in the US, most congregations are struggling.
- What dangers do we face as we stress restoration and authority!

# Question?

- Is there a danger of stressing externals to the neglect of our relationship with God (2 Tim 3:5)?
  - What happened after Josiah died?
  - 2 Kings 23:28 Immediately reverted!
- Should new convert material stress someone's walk with God as well as authority and proper worship?

# Question:

Which is easier, to focus on the structure and pattern of worship or a truly surrendered and trusting heart?

# What must we do today?

- What are some areas where we can improve?
- Without being overly critical or judgmental, in what areas can we do better as we seek to please God more and more?
- What questions are being asked?

Question:

Have we restored the *spirit* of  
NT Christianity?

Question:

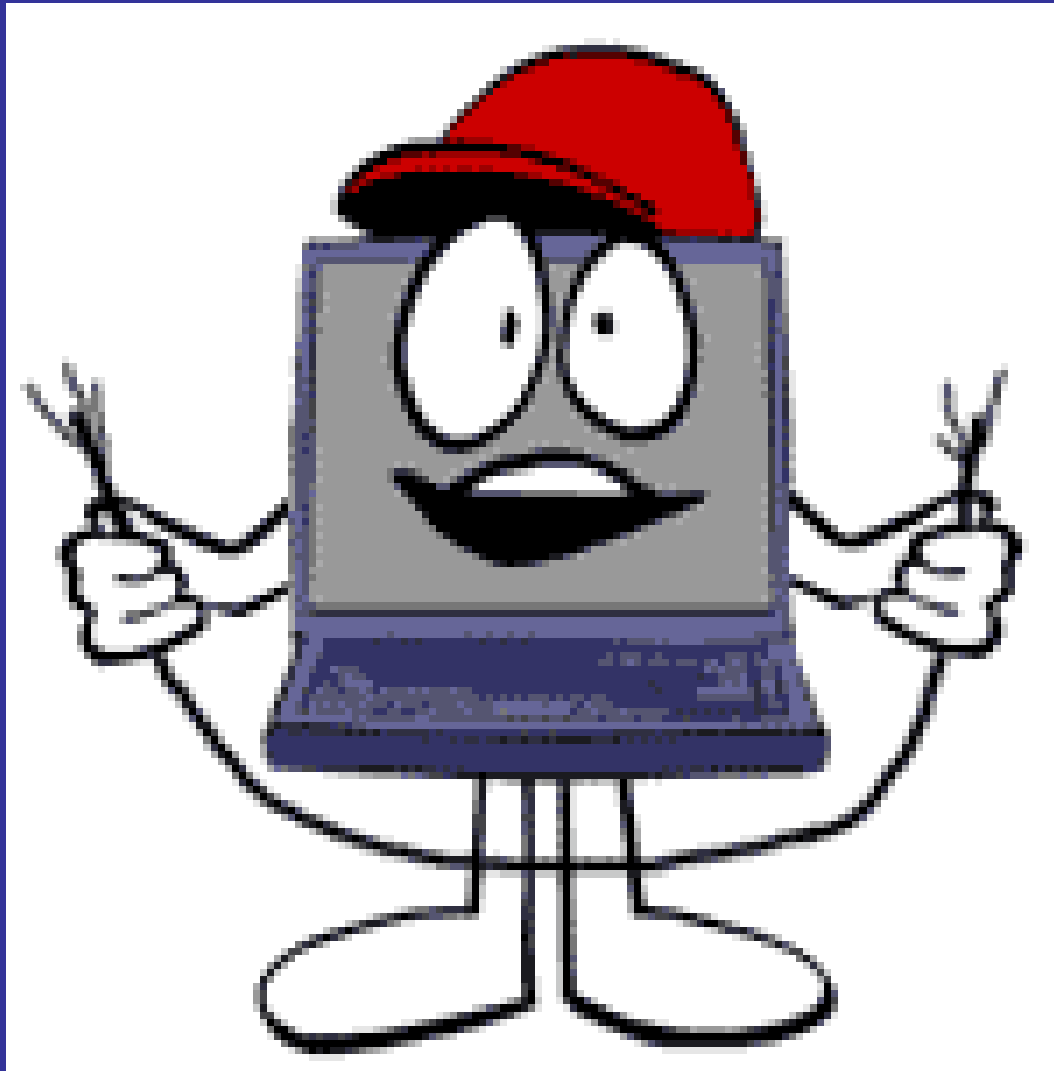
Have we restored the  
spirituality, the zeal, the  
evangelistic fever?

Question:  
How about the holy and pure  
lifestyle?

Past failures of the restoration principle do not prove it invalid.

- What do you think when the lights go off?
- “No one would say, ‘The principle of electricity is invalid.’”

**We Know We Have Lost Connection  
With the Source!**



Likewise, failures to be the church the Lord, desires that are caused by sin or lack of spirituality, do not make invalid the idea of restoration.

Instead, each individual, generation and local congregation, should *revitalize and renew* its' efforts to be the Lord's church!

(Jn 4:24 is still what Jesus wants)!

# Restoration Slogans

- A Key Restoration Slogan was:
  - In matters of faith – unity.
  - In matters of opinion – liberty.
  - In all things – love!

# Where Have Brethren Gone Awry?

- In matters of faith – unity.
- In matters of opinion – liberty.
- In all things – love.
- Historically, been a shortcoming of brethren being able to *disagree amicably*. Sad!
  - (See Eph 4:2 -3, 2 Tim 2: 23-25, Titus 3:2).
  - We must promote the *love of truth, but also the truth of love*.
  - “More will be lost from bad attitudes and name calling and evil surmising than the issues themselves.”

# What Have Brethren Gone Awry?

- Been a tendency to confuse matters of *opinion and faith*. Need study on this.
- Quick to *draw lines of fellowship* and to bind one's conscience upon others.
- While striving for unity, many I fear, have been divisive.
  - How did Paul view the church of Corinth?
  - How did the HS view the seven churches of Asia?
  - Were all seven “sound congregations?”

# Where Have Brethren Gone Awry?

- How about Phil 2:12-13?
  - “*Work out your own salvation* with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”
  - Must a person or congregation agree with me in every aspect to be considered my brother or a sister congregation?
  - Can we strive for better *consistency* in application with the NT and the early church?

# Where Have Brethren Gone Awry?

- How about Apollos in Acts 18?
- 25 Apollos .. “had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; 26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.” NASU

# Where Have Brethren Gone Awry?

- Which categories fall under “teaching someone more accurately” vs.
- Condemning false doctrine and saving a soul from being lost?

# Slogans of the Restoration Movement

- “We believe in being Christians only, but not that we are the *only Christians*.”
  - In what way is this true, and not true (Matt 7:21)?
  - Make sure we avoid “whittling on God’s end of the stick” (2 Tim 2:19).

## Some thoughts...

- Let's not confuse the *church universal* with the *local church*.
  - The universal church consists of the saved individuals in the body of Christ at any given time.
  - Not a collection of “faithful congregations.”
  - Be wary of efforts to activate and organize the church universal.

# Some thoughts...

- We should define ourselves more in a positive way concerning what we are and do, rather than what we are not.
- Provide more *informal opportunities* of mutual edification and prayer (Jas 5:16, I Cor 14:26, 40).
- Be careful not to turn the NT “perfect law of liberty” into “a revised law of Moses” (John 1:17, 2 Cor 3:4-6).

# Some thoughts...

- Be diligent to avoid a ‘Party Spirit’ which is condemned in Galatians 5:19-21
  - “enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, *parties* . . .
- “Churches of Christ don’t have popes, they have editors.”
  - Our loyalty must be to *Christ alone*!
  - Must avoid a “single issue” litmus tests for fellowship other than Eph 4: 2-6.
  - Must we abide today with political party lines made by previous editors and brethren?

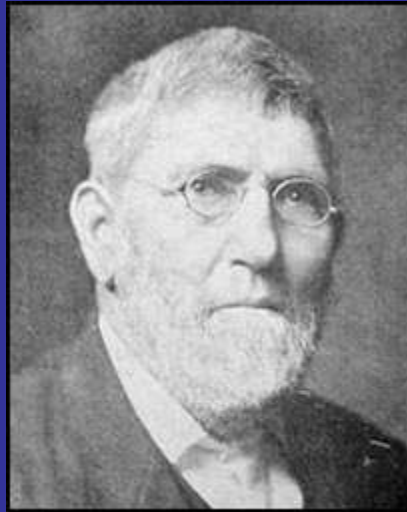
# Influential Men of the Restoration



T.B. Larimore

**Refused to take part in the division.**

# Influential Men of the Restoration



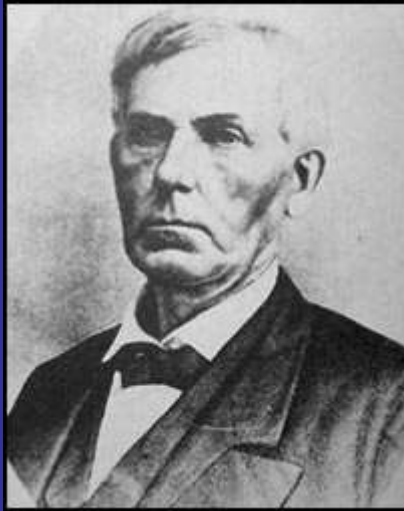
David Lipscomb

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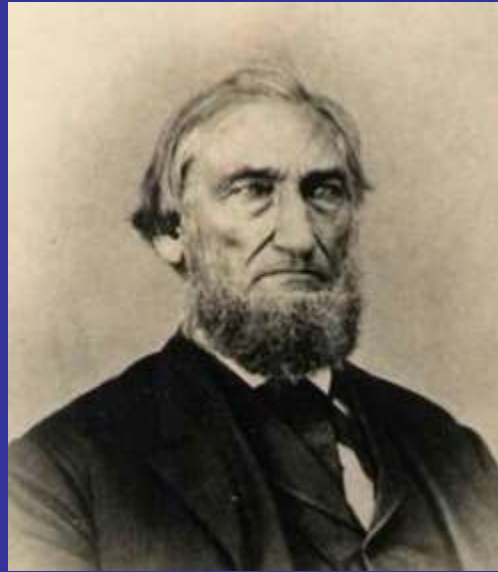
**J.W. McGarvey**

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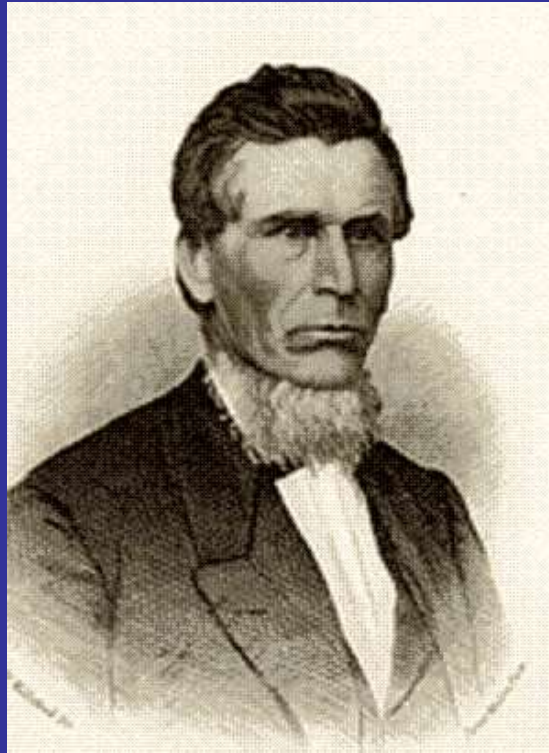
**Tolbert Fanning**

# Influential Men of the Restoration



**Benjamin Franklin**

# Influential Men of the Restoration



Moses E. Lard