



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- I believe most of us are familiar with the phrase **“Restoration Movement”**.
- The question for us is: **”Do we really need to restore the N.T. church?”**

- Restoration is simply the effort, by seekers of the truth, to bring back the original way of worship as presented in the New Testament Scriptures.
  - To say this implies that we have lost the original.
  - To say this implies that there is a need for restoration.
- Is there such a demand from God?
  - Is there a need for Restoration?

- To begin let us use the following **example.**
- The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ might be compared to **a piece of furniture.**
  - Over the centuries it has **suffered from abuse.**
- Things have been **stripped** from its foundation and things have been **added.**

- You can still see, with the eye of hope and faith, the markings of the original,
- However, it just does not fit the picture presented in the New Testament Scriptures.
- It has lost its true value because of these additions and deletions.

- Humanity no longer has the respect for her original beauty as they once did.
- In attempts to repair her image, they have lavished on her extra things,
- Or removed things that seems to not fit the modern thinking.
  - She is now abused, worn and tattered.
- She longs for her original beauty.<sup>6</sup>

- The scriptures speak of the times when the Church **would suffer such things.**
- Paul, speaking to the **Elders of Ephesus** says that even some of them would cause the beginning of this abuse.

- **Acts 20:29**

- I know that after I leave, some men will come into your group.

They will be like **wild wolves and will try to destroy the flock.**

- **20:30** Also, men

**from your own group**

will begin to teach things that are wrong.

They will **lead some away** from the truth to follow them. (ERV)

- **2 Timothy 3:1**

**Remember that there will be difficult times in the last days.**

- **3:2 People will be selfish, greedy, boastful, and conceited; they will be insulting, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, and irreligious;**
- **3:3 they will be unkind, merciless, slanderers, violent, and fierce; they will hate the good;**

- 2Timothy 3:4
  - they will be treacherous, reckless, and swollen with pride; they will love pleasure rather than God;
  - 3:5 they will hold to the outward form of our religion, but reject its real power. Keep away from such people.  
(GNB)

- Jesus also warns about false Christ that would come.

- (Matthew 24:24)

**For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

- If you read and study the book of Revelation, its theme is that of the departure from the truth and the final triumph of the Church over its enemies.

- To be able to restore the church back to the original as found in the New Testament, **we need to do two things.**
- **# 1** We must **remove** anything that was added and not authorized by the Scriptures.
- **# 2** Then **bring back** anything that was taken away, or removed that was authorized by the Scriptures.

- To accomplish the restoration of the New Testament Church we must **know what the original looked like.**
- The only way that we can see this picture is to view the church **in the light of the scriptures.**
  - That will be **one objective**  
in our study of the book of Acts.

- The scriptures will give us the true picture of what the church must look like.
  - The scriptures alone can do this.
    - We can have confidence that God has clearly revealed the facts that we need through His Word.
    - Once we have seen the original then we know what has been added and what was taken away.
- Once we know what the original looks like, we will not need anything else.

- **With furniture we**  
strip away the old paint  
to reveal the beautiful grain  
of the natural wood.
- **With the church**  
we strip away  
all human doctrines.
- **If it has human origin,**  
then it cannot be from God.
- **If it dates later than the first century,**  
then it cannot be from God.

- Jesus chastised those of His day for putting the doctrines of men above the doctrine of God.

- In Matthew 15:1-9 we learn that the Pharisees challenged the Lord regarding His disciples not keeping the traditions of the Elders.

- The **Traditions** of the Elders were not from God.
  - But the Pharisees placed **more importance on this than the scriptures.**
    - **Traditions often void** the commandments of God.
- They were in **serious error** because ...
  - **Matthew 15:9**  
**And in vain they worship Me,**
    - **Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**

- We learn in [Matthew](#) that Jesus planned to establish His church:
- [Matt 16:18](#) **And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build [my church](#);**
  - **and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**
- But it appears rather forcefully that the [“Hounds of Hell”](#) are doing their best to breach the gates of this heavenly retreat.

- The word “**church**” is translated from the Greek word in the New Testament, “**ekklesia**,” which means, “**assembly**.”
  - It refers both to the **world-wide body** of all Christians (**Ephesians 5:25-27**)
    - And to the **local “assembly”** of Christians (**Acts 11:22**).

- The book of Acts is a historical record of how Christianity spread.
  - And how churches were established throughout the known-world.
- The New Testament epistles were written mostly by the apostle Paul
  - And written mostly to local churches.

- These letters contain Jesus' instructions – through Paul – about **how these churches should function.**
- They contain **instructions** about the N.T. church.
- And many **other issues** with which these first century churches dealt.

- The New Testament paints a very clear picture that the church is:
  - The bride of Christ  
(**Ephesians 5:25-27**),
  - The body of Christ on earth.  
(**Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12**),
  - And a church  
purchased  
with his blood  
(**Acts 20:28**).

- With that in mind  
He cares very much  
about his church.
- And how each member  
is living their life.

- **Matthew 7:21**

Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **does the will** of my Father which is in heaven.

- **7:22** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name **done many wonderful works?**

- **7:23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: **depart from me,** you that work iniquity.

- 1 Timothy 3:14

These things write I unto you,

- 3:15 ...that you may know how you should behave yourself in the house of God,
  - which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

- **1Corinthians 14:37**

the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

- **Revelation 22:18**

If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

- **22:19** And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy,
- God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- When instructions are given to any group of people, there will inevitably be deviation from those instructions.
- This happened in the first century church.

- A good portion of Paul's writings were devoted to correcting these deviations.
- Let us notice a couple examples:
  - # 1 The Lord's Supper.
  - # 2 The Gospel message.

- Regarding The Lord's Supper

- 1Cor 11:20 When you come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.
- 11:21 For in eating every one takes before the other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunk.
- 11:22 What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this?
  - I praise you not.

- **2 Peter 3:1**

This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

- **3:2** that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,
- **3:3** knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

- **No Other Gospel**

- **Gal 1:6** I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ **unto another gospel:**

- **1:7** Which is **not** another; but there be some that trouble you, and would **pervert the gospel of Christ.**

- **No Other Gospel**

- **Gal 1:8** But though we, or an **angel** from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be **accursed**.
- **1:9** As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that you have received, **let him be accursed**.

- **“Restoration”**

is the act of returning something to **its former condition.**

- But sadly, restoration is almost **always short-lived.**

- Paul warned that Christians **would continue to deviate** further and further from their original instructions.

- **2 Timothy 4:3**

**For the time is coming  
when people will not endure  
sound teaching,**

- **but having itching ears they will  
accumulate for themselves  
teachers to suit  
their own passions,**

- **4:4 and will turn away from  
listening to the truth and  
wander off into myths.**

- In every generation, to keep people from deviating – and to restore them when they deviate – men of God **must**,
  - “**Preach the word**;
  - **be ready in season and out of season**;
  - **reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching”**  
**(2 Timothy 4:2)**

- Over the centuries, there have been numerous deviations from the instructions of the New Testament.
- Some of deviations have been in doctrine,
  - Many have been in worship practices

- **2 John 1:9**

Whosoever...abides not in the **doctrine of Christ**, has not God....

- **1:10** If there come **any** unto you, and bring not **this doctrine**,
- **receive** him not into your house, **neither** bid him God speed:
- **1:11** For he that bids him God speed **is partaker of his evil deeds.**

- Many argue, however, that we shouldn't even try to restore the practices of the New Testament church.
  - They argue that all of those instructions were specific to the Christians of that time and have no application for us today.

- If the instructions given to the first-century church are not applicable today, how can we be sure that anything from Scripture is applicable today?
  - If we shouldn't teach New Testament worship,
  - Why should we teach salvation through Jesus Christ?
- Or anything else for that matter.

- We cannot treat the New Testament as a smorgasbord, taking the things we like and leaving the things we don't.
- Which is what denominations do.
- Regarding divisions in the Church Paul wrote:
  - 1Cor 1:10 **By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ I appeal to all of you, my friends, to agree in what you say, so that there will be no divisions among you.**
    - Be completely united, **with only one thought and one purpose.**  
(GNB)

- People also argue that the New Testament church wasn't perfect, so it shouldn't be used as a pattern for today.
- At times the first century church deviated from their original instructions and needed restoration.
- All N.T. epistles address the deviations and condemn them.
- It isn't their deviations after which we should pattern ourselves,
- But after the inspired instructions they were given by the apostles.

- May we never stop doing our best to **“walk in the same way in which he walked”**  
(**1 John 2:6**)

- **1 John 2:3**

**This is how we can be sure that we have come to know him: if we continually keep his commandments.**

- **2:4 The person who says, "I have come to know him," but does not continually keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth has no place in that person.**

- The Apostle Paul wrote these words:
- **1 Corinthians 11:1**  
**Follow my example,**  
**just as I follow**  
**the example of Christ.**

- **2Th 1:7** when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven **with his mighty angels,**
- **1:8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that **know not God,** and that **obey not the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ:
  - **1:9** Who shall be punished **with everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**

