Lesson 5 – Reasons For Restoration

* Slide 1 - M.M. Davis in *How The Disciples Began And Grew* related seven significant things at work in the world that brought about the Restoration Movement

Slide 2 - The Renaissance

1. Movement of transition in Europe from medieval to modern world, especially classical arts and letters.
2. Earliest Traces To 14th Century Italy
3. Within 100 years Italy brought in Greek literature
4. Reached its zenith by 1st of 16th Century through men like Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael, Petrarch, Erasmus, and many more.
5. Soon spread to Germany and England
6. The students of science, philosophy and religion started looking for the sources of things. It introduced us to men like Galileo and Rene Descartes, the philosopher that introduced the thought, “I think, therefore I am.” “I think of God, therefore He exists.”
7. Two Fundamental Principles
   1. The Right of Private Judgment vs. the clergy/church who did their thinking for them.
   2. The Bible when studied would produce unity among Christians as it did in the 1st Century
      1. Remember the Seed Principle - “But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” (Matthew 13:23 NKJV)

Slide 3 – The Divided Church

1. 1054 A.D. - The East–West Schism, also called the Great Schism and the Schism of 1054. Greek-East in Constantinople & Latin-West Rome
2. 1305 – The Western church divided for around 70 years where two popes served – one in Avignon, France, and the other in Rome, Italy.
3. In light of Jesus’ teaching in John 17:11-23, unity was not only possible, but commanded.
4. Other passages promoting unity: John 10:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 3:3; 12:12-27
   1. “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.” (John 10:16 NKJV)
   2. “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:10 NKJV)
   3. “for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?” (1 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV)
5. Churches in their day were far from willing or were of the disposition to promote unity
6. Such divisions as existed weakened the forces of God
   1. Instead of one force for God, there were many small detachments jealously watching each other rather than the common foe

Slide 4 – A Warring Church

1. Churches were devouring one another
2. Protestant Churches were physical enemies of the Rome Church
3. Public displays of rhetorical hatred was spouted forth
4. Physical engagements and wars often resulted
5. A house divided can not stand! Matthew 12:25,26

Slide 5 - Beclouded Theology

1. The blind were leading the blind, and both falling into the ditch! —Matt. 15:14
2. The Bible was not understood as a systematic revelation, but a jumble of jewels thrown together
3. Teachings from Moses and Jesus were seen as equally applicable
4. Man was a machine and conversion was seen as a miracle

Slide 6 – An Arrogant Clergy

1. Most men of the clergy were ignorant, and ignorance breeds arrogance
2. The Bible had been removed from access to the common man, enlarging the chasm between
3. As Israel could not be restored to God without removing idolatry in the O.T., 1st Century Christianity could not be restored without removing the modern clergy.

Slide 7 – Human Creeds

1. Human codes of conduct and “practical” application of the Biblical principles, the authority of which exceeded that of the Bible
2. Creedalism ruled with the rod of iron: To be a member of a church, one had to swear loyalty to the creed of that church. –
   * Barton W. Stone @ Transylvania Presbytery – They asked, “Do you swear allegiance to the Westminster Confession of Faith?” He said, “I will as far as it is in keeping with the Bible.”
3. Each minister was trained in it, preached from it, and was sent to maintain its control over the masses.
   * When they did not teach it, they were tried for heresy.
4. The Bible was a neglected treasure
5. Creeds destroyed any hopes of unity, and had to be destroyed to restore that unity

Slide 8 – Infidelity

1. The beginning of the 19th century was a period of blatant unbelief, not far from atheism.
2. Skepticism had taken firm grip in Europe and America
3. The Revolutionary War and the French Revolution was a result
4. The world was dark and getting darker
   1. The move westward did not include the schoolroom or the church building
   2. Unbelief was aggressive and reckless
   3. The Legislature of Connecticut in 1741 declared against the work of religious evangelists
   4. Thomas Paine was an idol, and his flimsy arguments against the Christ were almost universally accepted
   5. Yale University had two Paine societies, with only a handful of Christians on campus, same was true with William & Mary & Transylvania in the west (Lexington, Ky)