

# Causes Of Restoration

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

# The Renaissance

- Movement of transition in Europe from medieval to modern world, especially classical arts and letters.
- Earliest Traces To 14<sup>th</sup> Century Italy
- Within 100 years Italy brought in Greek literature
- Reached its zenith by 1<sup>st</sup> of 16<sup>th</sup> Century through men like Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael.
- Soon spread to Germany and England
- The students of science, philosophy and religion started looking for the sources of things.
- Two Fundamental Principles
  - The Right of Private Judgment
  - The Bible when studied would produce unity among Christians as it did in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century

# The Divided Church

- In light of Jesus' teaching in John 17:11-23, unity was not only possible, but commanded.
- Other passages promoting unity: John 10:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 3:3; 12:12-27
- Churches in their day were far from will or disposition to do promote unity
- Such divisions as existed weakened the forces of God
  - Instead of one force for God, there were many small detachments jealously watching each other rather than the common foe

# A Warring Church

- Churches were devouring one another
- Protestant Churches were physical enemies of the Rome Church
- Public displays of rhetorical hatred was spouted forth
- Physical engagements and wars often resulted
- A house divided can not stand!

Matthew 12:25,26

# Beclouded Theology

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

# An Arrogant Clergy

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

# Human Creeds

- Human codes of conduct and “practical” application of the Biblical principles, the authority of which exceeded that of the Bible
- 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
- Each minister was trained in it, preached from it, and was sent to maintain its control over the masses
- The Bible was a neglected treasure
- Creeds destroyed any hopes of unity, and had to be destroyed to restore that unity

# Infidelity

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