

SERMON NOTES

LIFE LINES

The weekly bulletin of the Warm Springs Road Church of Christ

January 29, 2012

The Restoration, part II

The Catholic church has needed no help in pointing out its own fallibilities over the last several years. From scandal to declining numbers of adherents, the Catholic church is struggling. But of course this was not always so. The Catholic church dominated the world in the Middle Ages. They held power in world religion, world politics, and world economics. And there was very little to be done about it.

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed *The Ninety-Five Theses* to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This marked the beginning of the Reformation movement and the establishment of Protestantism. Many within the clergy (priesthood) of the Catholic church were becoming more and more frustrated about clerical abuses of power within the Catholic church especially regarding the selling of “indulgences.” Luther and many others called for the church to reform. The Catholic church responded with a Counter-Reformation movement led by the forming of the Jesuit order, an almost military branch of the Catholic church. The conflicting sides in the religious world at the time eventually came to blows. Religious wars were fought throughout Europe beginning in the 1520s and ending in 1648 with the Treaty of Westphalia.

The most significant results of the Protestant Reformation and the wars that accompany the movement are the foundation of denominations and the desire of world governments to increasingly distance themselves from the power and influence of the Catholic church. Lutherans, Calvinists, Anglicans and even the Baptist church arose as a result of the declaration of religious independence. This is roughly the same time that persecuted groups of “believers” began seeking refuge in the New World.

F. W. Mattox in his book *The Eternal Kingdom* gives five conditions that favored the success of the Reformation movement. 1) The Renaissance spread a revival of interest in study of the Scripture to the point that people began to realize that the Catholic church was far from the church described in the New Testament. 2) The corruption of the hierarchy in the Catholic church. 3) The intellectual freedom which had been encouraged by the Renaissance. 4) Secular

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Meeting Times

Sunday 9:30 Bible class, 10:30 worship, 1:00 worship
Wednesday 7:00 Bible class

rulers became willing to support opposition to the hierarchy on religious as well as on economic grounds. 5) The desire to return to the purity of New Testament Christianity. All these factors working together helped pave the way for the freedom upon which the United States was established.

Still during this time there is very little evidence or recorded history of any true church of Christ in existence. Undoubtedly there were pockets of true Christians in Europe worshipping as the New Testament prescribes, but the records are sparse. A desire to reform an already corrupt denomination does not result from honest examination of all Scripture. Proper Bible study will result in the desire to restore the church to the organization and influence which was given to it by Christ. The Reformers did not go far enough. For about 300 years after Luther's ultimatum, the religious world was seeking to establish itself in its new independent identity. It is during this time that we see classic liberal criticism begin and its impact would have long lasting effects on the religious world in general.

In 1735 John and Charles Wesley came to Georgia and the Methodist church began shortly thereafter. Luther's boldness gave many men the courage to stand against what they had always believed and defend their own opinions. This new found courage to defend eventually helped men to see the need to defend the plain, simple truth as opposed to their own opinions.

Thomas and Alexander Campbell were some of the earliest to call for a restoration of New Testament Christianity, but they were by no means the first. Next week we will lay the foundation of the Restoration movement and look at some men who were contemporary with the Campbells.

Check each day when complete:

- _____ **Jan. 29** - Lev. 1-2; Mark 3; Psa. 54-55
- _____ **Jan. 30** - Lev. 3-4; Mark 4; Psa. 56-58
- _____ **Jan. 31** - Lev. 5-6; Mark 5; Psa. 59-60
- _____ **Feb. 1** - Lev. 7-8; Mark 6; Psa. 61-63
- _____ **Feb. 2** - Lev. 9-10; Mark 7; Psa. 64-65
- _____ **Feb. 3** - Lev. 11-12; Mark 8; Psa. 66-68
- _____ **Feb. 4** - Lev. 13-14; Mark 9-10; Psa. 69-70

Pantry Item for January.

CANNED SOUP

Pantry Item for February.

DRY GOODS

(boxed dinners, mac and cheese, cake mixes, etc.)

Church Announcements

1. Remember our sick and shut-ins and those that are traveling.
2. Sis. Mary Mergler fell this week and broke her wrist. The ladies have arranged a schedule for providing food for her. Please see Margaret Stewart or Ginga Foley if you can help out.
3. Remember Pat Campbell, Margaret Hines, Russell Patrick, Geraldine Wilkins, June Poyner, Dot Debece, and OP Boling and others need our prayers.
4. We are putting together a new directory. It will have pictures! Mike Foley is prepared to take your picture today if you are. James Thompson has an information form for you to fill out.
5. Check out the redesigned website! It's loaded with features for members, so if you don't have a login and password, see Casey Hergett. www.wsrcoc.com

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, January 29

Opening Singing	B. Patrick
Table & Giving	B. Stewart
Assisting	J. Thompson
	C. Hergett
	D. Johnson
	M. Mendez
	J. Lemon
Sermon AM	D. Dixon
Sermon PM	D. Dixon
Closing Prayer	L. Poyner
Alternate	F. Youngblood

Sunday, February 5

Opening Singing	B. Patrick
Table & Giving	G. Kendrick
Assisting	M. Mendez
	M. Foley
	D. Johnson
	G. McMurray
	C. Hergett
Sermon AM	D. Dixon
Sermon PM	D. Dixon
Closing Prayer	L. Stewart
Alternate	B. Stewart

Wednesday, February 1

Invitation	M. Mendez
Invitation Song	D. Dixon
Prayer	G. McMurray