

Restoration: The Search Continues (II)

Proverbs 22:28

Some Ancient Landmarks

- Bible, not creeds...
- Baptism, not sprinkling...
- Lord's supper on 1st day of week...
- Autonomy of church...

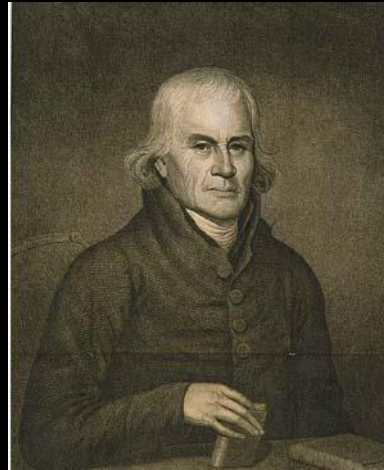
I. Significance of Restoration

II. Scriptures Produce Restoration

III. Sincerity Produces Results

**IV. Finding Truth On
American Soil**

James O'Kelley



- Among first major efforts to return to NT in U.S. Mt.28:19
- Some within Methodist Church: its government contrary to Scripture.

James O'Kelley

- O'Kelley led opposition to Asbury...
 - 1793: Virginia: 'Republican Methodists'
 - 'Republican' means freedom; Bible is only creed.
 - 1794: planned church government: lay aside everything but Bible. **Mt.28:18**

James O'Kelley

(back to basics)

Five Cardinal Principles of 'Christian' Church

1. Lord Jesus Christ is only Head of Church.
Ep.1:22-23.
2. Name Christian to exclude all party/sectarian names. 1 Pt.4:16.
3. Scripture our only creed; sufficient rule of faith, practice. 1 Pt.4:11.
4. Christian character, or vital piety, only test of fellowship. Ep.5:11.
5. Right of private judgment, liberty of conscience.
1 Co.10:27-29.

James O'Kelley

- 1801: *Republican Methodist* changed to '*Christian Church.*' 1 Co.1:10-13
 - 1809: about 20,000
- Lord's supper on 1st day of week, and collection; singing, preaching, praying, etc.
 - BUT kept sprinkling.
- Importance of O'Kelley's efforts lie in direction they were going – to NT.

Elias Smith

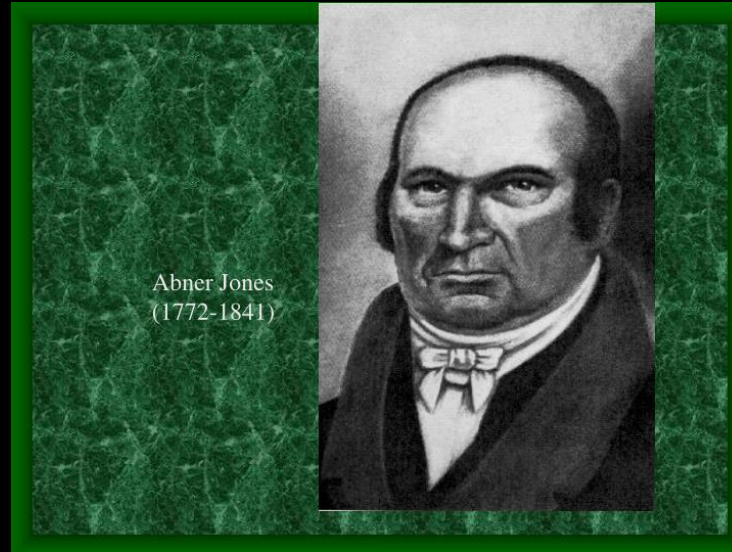
- Forced to be sprinkled.
- Baptist Church: particular election.

‘The articles of faith to which I then assented, contained what the Baptists call **particular election**; or that Christ died for the **elect**, and that such a number should be saved... These *articles* I did not understand for they had never been read to me before; and being read but once, it was not possible for me to remember much of them. I assented to them, because the minister and church thought they were true. Since that time, the minister and the members have rejected that abominable doctrine of partiality, and now stand in gospel liberty’

Elias Smith

- He opposed the catechism as ‘an invention of men.’
- They were a ‘church of Christ.’
- He later accepted / rejected universalism five times.
 - ‘If Calvinism is false, universalism must be true’
 - Ep.4:14

Abner Jones

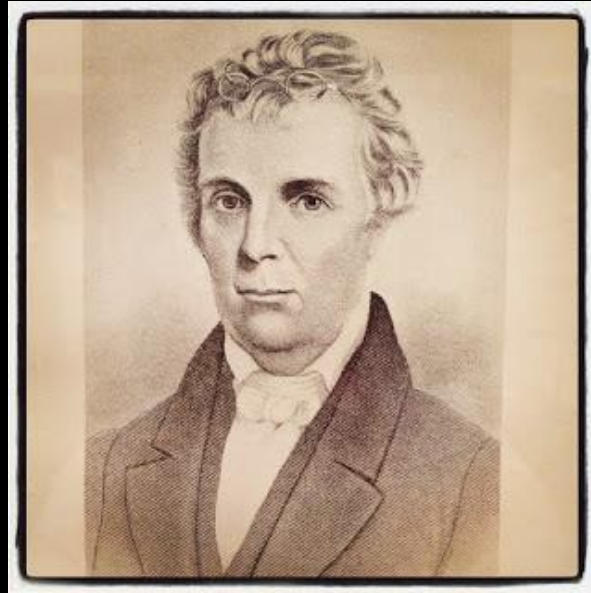


- New England. Dissented from Calvinism.
- 'I hid my light under a bed of Calvinism, which brought great darkness on my mind.'

Abner Jones

- Dissented from Baptist Church. They gave him cold shoulder.
- Churches rejected human names....
- Did not go all the way back to NT.

Barton W. Stone



- “The doctrines then publicly taught were that mankind was so totally depraved that they could not believe, repent, or obey the gospel – that regeneration was an immediate work of the Spirit, whereby faith and repentance were wrought in the heart.”

Barton W. Stone

- Stone heard James McGready preach; it convinced him of sin but left him with no hope.
- Henry Patillo, Presbyterian leader) held Confession of Faith before Stone to accept, not the Bible.

Barton W. Stone

- 1791: heard Wm. Hodge preach 'God is Love' ('New Light' Presbyterian). Now he knew he could believe...
- Cane Ridge: Doubted Westminster Confession of Faith.
- Could not reconcile THD and preaching; persuaded people to repent and believe. Universality of gospel; faith as condition.

Barton W. Stone

- Cane Ridge Revival: 20,000 – 30,000 came.
 - Convulsions – emotional experiences.
- Stone: ‘a heretic.’ ‘Arminian views.’
 - Calvinism: man could do nothing to be saved
- Set up his own Presbytery.

Barton W. Stone

- Dissolved organization: 'Last Will and Testament of Springfield Presbytery.

'We will, that the people henceforth take the Bible as the only sure guide to heaven; and as many as are offended with other books, which stand in competition with it, may cast them into the fire if they choose; for it is better to enter into life having one book, than having many to be cast into hell'

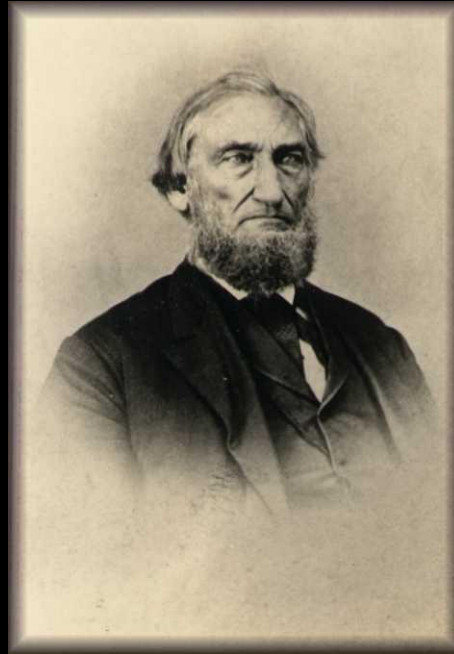
Barton W. Stone

- Stone, still a Presbyterian, was shaken by Robert Marshall: convinced of the truth of 'Baptist's' views on pedobaptism.
- Was convinced; preached baptism for remission of sins (but not necessary for church membership). Stone's progress:
 - 1) sprinkling...
 - 2) immersion...
 - 3) salvation

Barton W. Stone

- Ky: after laboring with mourning until late at night, Stone concluded . . .
- “...We all know that God is willing to pardon them, and certainly they are anxious to receive it. The cause must be that we do not preach as the apostles did. On the day of Pentecost those who were ‘pierced to the heart,’ were promptly told what to do for the remission of sins...and they gladly received the word and were baptized.”
- Ac.26:24

Benjamin Franklin Hall



- Ordained to preach by Stone, often helped meetings, mourners . . . finding no relief.
- In 1826, found Campbell-McCalla debate ...

1831 meeting

- Raccoon John Smith:

John 3:19-21



‘Let us, then my brethren, be no longer Campbellites or Stoneites, New Lights or Old Lights, or any other kind of lights, but let us come to the Bible and to the Bible alone, as the only book in the world that can give us all the light we need’

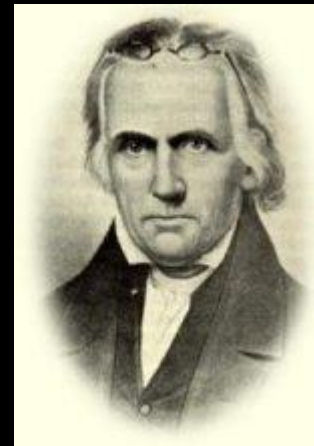
Benjamin Lynn

- Left PA for Bardstown, KY, 1772
 1. After Indian wars, Lynn preached ‘just the Bible.’ Baptists didn’t like it.
 2. Traveled 80 m. for BW Stone to baptize him for remission of sins.
 3. 1810: moved to N. Alabama. Died 1814.
 - a. At this time, Campbell was working with Bap-
tists.
 - b. Stone had broken with Presbyterians, but his influence did not reach this far south.
 - c. How...? He read his Bible.

Rachel and Marshall DeSpain

- Moved to Waterloo, AL, 1826. Established church there.
- Records: church ordered 300 song books.
- 1835: church disappeared.
- Letter: found them in Clarksville, TX. 1836

Thomas Campbell, born 1763



- Parents: Church of England.
- He was repelled by Anglican formality; sought Presbyterian Church.
- Accepted Calvinism (experience).
- Glasgow University, 1783-1786; theological school, Whitburn (five years).
- Discovered congregation of Independents nearby; he often attended evening services.

Thomas Campbell

- Tried repeatedly to reunite Presbyterian factions. Failed.
- **Old Light Anti-Burgher Seceder Presbyterian**
- Arrived in America, May, 1807.
 - Presbytery soon charged him with error... statements out of harmony with Westminster Confession.
 - Presbytery convicted him of deviating from Anti-Burgher doctrine...

Thomas Campbell

- Other charges – Campbell taught . . .
 - one must have saving faith, no experience
 - elders can pray and conduct communion without ordained clergy present.
- Spies reported on his preaching. Many lied.
- He renounced their jurisdiction... (1810).
- Met at home of Abraham Altars.

Thomas Campbell

- Motto: Where the Bible speaks, we speak; where the Bible is silent, we are silent
 - **Chillingworth**: Bible is sole authority in matters of salvation (1637).
 - **Stillingfleet**: For the church to require more than Christ Himself did...is wholly unwarranted (1657).
- Protestants had used motto against Roman Catholic traditions ... now against human creeds.
 - 1 Co.4:6; 2 Co.1:13

Thomas Campbell

- Motto: *We speak where the Bible speaks...*
- Andrew Munro objected... 'Mr. C., if we adopt that as a basis, then there is an end of infant baptism.'

Thomas Campbell

- The Declaration and Address . . . (1809)
 - “In faith, unity; in opinion, liberty; and in all things, charity.”
 - Rupertus Meldinius: In essentials unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things charity.
- Summary:
 1. Church of Christ is one
 2. Scripture is our only guide
 3. Appeal to love, understanding

Concluding Facts

1. Gospel had spread rapidly. E.g., Georgia, AL., et al.: men pleading for restoration (never heard of A. Campbell or B. W. Stone).
2. Assessment: great progress was made in going back to Bible and simply obeying it. But the emphasis in churches was only on first principles. Left churches in need of teaching they were not getting.
3. Improper conception of church – one of Satan's favorite areas of attack.