

Restoration: The Search Continues (III)

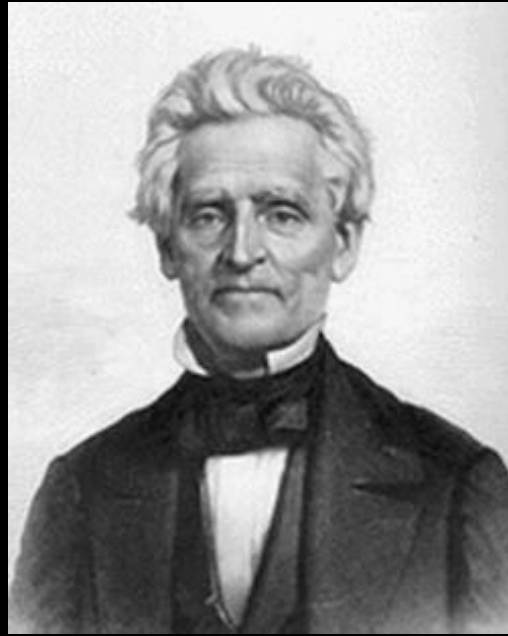
I. Significance of Restoration

II. Scriptures Produce Restoration

III. Sincerity Produces Results

**IV. Finding Truth On
American Soil, cont'd.**

Raccoon John Smith



- Little formal education.
- Wild in youth...
- Father died... Became Baptist preacher.

Raccoon John Smith

“I am John Smith, from Stockton’s Valley. In more recent years, I have lived in Wayne, among the rocks and hills of Cumberland. Down there, saltpeter caves abound, and raccoons make their homes. On that wild frontier we never had good schools, nor many books; consequently, I stand before you today a man without an education. But, my brethren, even in that ill-favored region, the Lord, in good time, found me. He showed me his wondrous grace, and called me to preach the everlasting Gospel of his Son.”

The name ‘Raccoon’ caught on.

Raccoon John Smith

Obstacles to truth . . . (1/3)

- . Family: wife, children. 1814
- . Family: mother; Philadelphia Confession...
- . 1817: doctrine of eternal condemnation of infants disturbed him.
 - . He did not want to believe that his two children, after suffering a painful death, would be condemned to eternal suffering.

Raccoon John Smith

Obstacles to truth . . . (2/3)

- 1822: while preaching he urged sinners to repent and believe gospel. He got confused.
 - Suppose the elect did **not** believe – would they be saved?
 - Suppose the non-elect **did** believe – would they be saved?
 - He closed: ‘Brethren, something is wrong – I am in the dark – we are all in the dark; but how to lead you to the light, or to find the way myself, before God, I know not.’

Raccoon John Smith

Obstacles to truth . . . (3/3)

- His studies led him to believe human creeds were wrong, and Calvinism a great evil.
 - 1826: associated with gospel preachers.
 - 1827: North District Association, annual meeting: charged him with three heresies...
- His mother learned of his change
 - Mk.10:29-30

Raccoon John Smith

Obstacles to truth . . .

- Family: wife, children. 1814
- Family: mother; Philadelphia Confession...
- Church: he was advised not to preach so strongly or his 'Baptist brethren' would not pay him...
- His reply: 'Conscience is an article that I have never yet brought into market; but should I offer it for sale, Montgomery County, with all its lands and houses, would not be enough to buy it, much less that farm of 100 acres.'
- Baptized 2000 in Ky., 1827; almost 2000 in 1828.

Alexander Campbell

- University of Glasgow
- Greatly influenced by James Haldane, Greville Ewing – taught . . .
 - Lord's supper every first day of week
 - Scriptures, not human creeds
 - Autonomy of church
 - Plurality of elders
- They adhered to Bible alone

Alexander Campbell

- Notebook of things he was learning...
 - ‘I see as many marks of wisdom in what is omitted in the Bible as in what is included.’
 - ‘I observe that the scriptures positively testify against the practice of Christians calling themselves by their earthly leaders.’

Alexander Campbell

- 1809, America . . . feared father's reaction
- They reached same conclusion independently by searching Bible alone – their creed
- AC study schedule, winter, 1810:
 - 8-9am: read Gk. 11-12: Latin. 12-1: Hebrew.
 - Each day: commit 10 vss. of scriptures to memory and read same in original languages (2 hrs.).
 - Each day: other reading and studies as occasion may serve. These studies required 4½ hrs.
 - Church history et al. studies constituted principle part of other literary pursuits

Alexander Campbell

- In searching for truth, he made Bible the ultimate source of all his authority.

“The Scriptures are their own interpreter...”

“It is too easy to become slaves to other men’s thinking”

Alexander Campbell

- Birth of daughter (1812) – infant baptism?
 1. Only penitent believers were fit subjects for baptism.
 2. Studied Gk. word: *immersion*. No infants...
 3. Only simple confession of faith in Jesus was required.

Matthias Luce baptized him and others in Buffalo Creek, 1812 . . . before he understand baptism for remission of sins (1823).

Alexander Campbell

- After immersion, Baptists' Redstone Association invited Bruch Run church to join.
- Many Baptists were receptive to his teaching, and as disgusted with their preachers as he was.
- Tough 20 years. He was Baptist only with reference to baptism.
- He became Independent. (The break with Baptists was complete by late 1830s.)
 - Led to seven year period of persecution by Baptist preacher(s).

Alexander Campbell

Debates

- **Walker:** Presbyterian: subject and mode of baptism. “Four ‘household’ baptisms in NT.
- **Response:** ‘All the house of’
 1. **Cornelius**, Ac.10:2, that feared God...
 2. **Jailor**, Ac.16:34, that rejoiced, believed
 3. **Crispus**, Ac.18:8, that believed...
 4. **Stephanus**, 1 Co.1:16; 16:15, that were addicted...

Alexander Campbell

Debates

- Walker: first speech – 2 minutes long:
baptism = OT circumcision.
- Response:
 1. Then they would baptize none but males.
 2. Would baptize on 8th day.
 3. Would baptize all slaves / servants of house.
 4. Would not confine administration of baptism to clerical order (both men / women circumcise own children).
 5. Would not confine baptism to infants of believers only; wicked Jews had same privilege.

Alexander Campbell

Debates

- Walker, Presbyterian
- McCalla, Presbyterian – same topics [injected baptism for remission of sins]
- Owen, atheist
- Purcell, Roman Catholic
- Rice, Presbyterian

‘A week’s debating is
worth a year’s preaching’

Alexander Campbell

‘Christian Baptist’

- Seven years (1823-1830)
- Attacked clergy, denominationalism; taught NT principles, etc.
- Baptists responded with ‘anathemas’ – ‘How to recognize a Campbellite’ . . .
- Campbell broke with Baptist church.

Alexander Campbell

“Campbellite” (1/2)

- Encyclopedia of Religion, ed. Vergilius Fern:

“A term applied to the Disciples of Christ;

- 1) Whimsically by themselves;
- 2) Ignorantly by the non-church public;
- 3) Viciously, as well as ignorantly by the less enlightened sects. Obsolescent with the general advance of religious intelligence and interdenominational courtesy.”

Alexander Campbell

“Campbellite” (2/2)

- Which doctrine or practice originated in lifetime of A. Campbell?
- Many disagree with A. Campbell on several things.
- Paul experienced similar issues – 1 Co.1:10-13.

Concluding Facts

1. Love truth; some suffered and died for it.
Jn.8:31-32.
2. Appreciate those who spread gospel in spite of hatred and opposition. Ac.15:26.
3. Stay the course. 1 Co.15:58.