

THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT

A. Times are different from what they used to be!

1. Tolerance - the new original sin is "intolerance" - everything goes!
2. New buzz words - "I'm OK you're OK" - "Whatever"
3. Not new - Judges 17:6 - the condition after Samson's time - "Every man did what was right in his own eyes."
4. Truth is subjective. "My truth is as good as your truth!" "There are no absolutes!"
5. But Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth will make you free." - John 8:32

B. God sees things differently - "I'm OK, you are not OK!"

1. See Isa. 55:6-9, 11, Psl. 50:16-21 - His ways are not our ways!, nor are our ways His!
2. When God called the people back to His way, the people responded "Forget it!" (Jer. 6:16) and went to pluralism -and syncretism - see Ez. 20:8, Ex. 32:1-9, Josh. 24:2-3, 15, Amos. 5;26-27, Acts 7:42-43
3. We too must decide if it will be our way or His way - Josh. 24:14-15

C. The Restoration Movement is a choice to use God's Perspective - "Wake up and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. Remember therefore what you have received and heard, and keep it and repent...." Rev. 3:2-3

D. Christ came to offer a sacrifice and a way

1. Lk 19:10 - "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."
2. He brought us God's way! "Way" was a much used name for the church in the first century. It is found 19 times in John John 5:30 - "I can do nothing on my own initiative! As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of him

who sent me." John 7:16 - "My teaching is not mine, but His who sent me."

3. He gave God's message to the Apostles - John 17:8, 14
4. He gave the Holy Spirit for quality control - John 14:26
5. He gave the Great Commission - Matt. 28:18-20
6. The Apostles obeyed - Acts 20:20, 27
7. They gave it in written form - - 2 Tim. 3:16-17
8. Restoration means - no more and no less

E. Not the church in Corinth - but the church of the New Testament which is described in the New Testament. Corinth was having a hard time measuring up to the model! We can learn from their mistakes! This is the way it is:

1. The Lord puts you in it - Acts 2:47, by the new birth John 3:5
2. He writes our name in His heavenly book - Phil. 4:3
3. It will be read at judgment! - Rev. 20:15, 21:27
4. Christ will present the church to Himself at the end - Eph. 5:25-27
5. Do we want to be in it? If we do, we have to do it His way!
6. Matthew 7:21 - "Not every one who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Carl Mitchell