



Why I am a  
member of The  
Church of Christ  
Part 3\_History

Why

I am a  
member  
of the

***CHURCH  
of CHRIST***

LEROY BROWNLOW

Churches of Christ generally share the following theological beliefs and practices:

- Autonomous, congregational church organization
- Do not hold to any denominational creeds
- Reliance on the Bible alone for doctrine/service
- Local governance by a plurality of male elders
- Baptism by immersion of consenting believers for the forgiveness of sins
- Weekly observance of Communion on Sunday
- Practice of a cappella singing, and the rejection of instrumental music, in worship.

# History of Church of Christ



Historically, Churches of Christ in the United States have roots in the American Restoration Movement, and were recognized as a distinct religious group by the U.S. Religious Census of 1906. Prior to that all congregations associated with the Restoration Movement had been reported together by the Census Bureau.

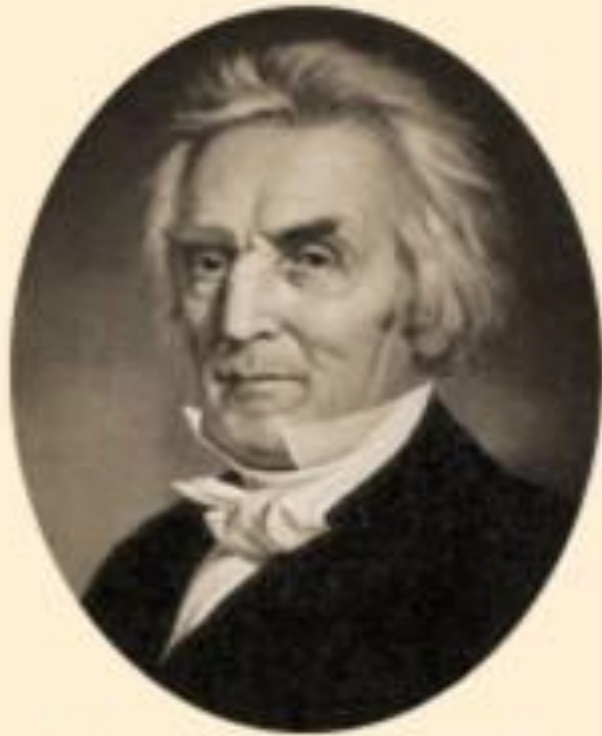


# Restoration movement

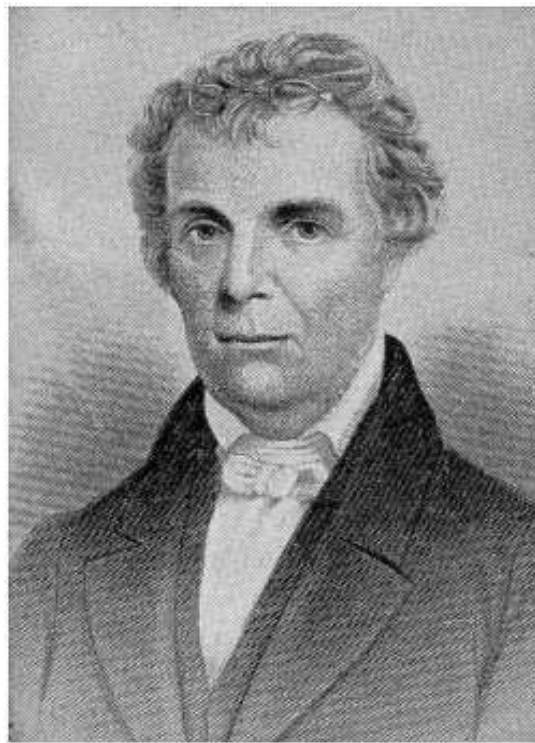
## 1790-1840



The Restoration Movement began on the American frontier during the Second Great Awakening of the early 19th century under the leadership of Thomas and Alexander Campbell, Walter Scott, and Barton W. Stone. Those leaders had declared their independence from their Presbyterian roots, seeking a fresh start to restore the New Testament church, and abandoning creeds.



Alexander Campbell



Barton W. Stone (1772-1844)



Walter Scott

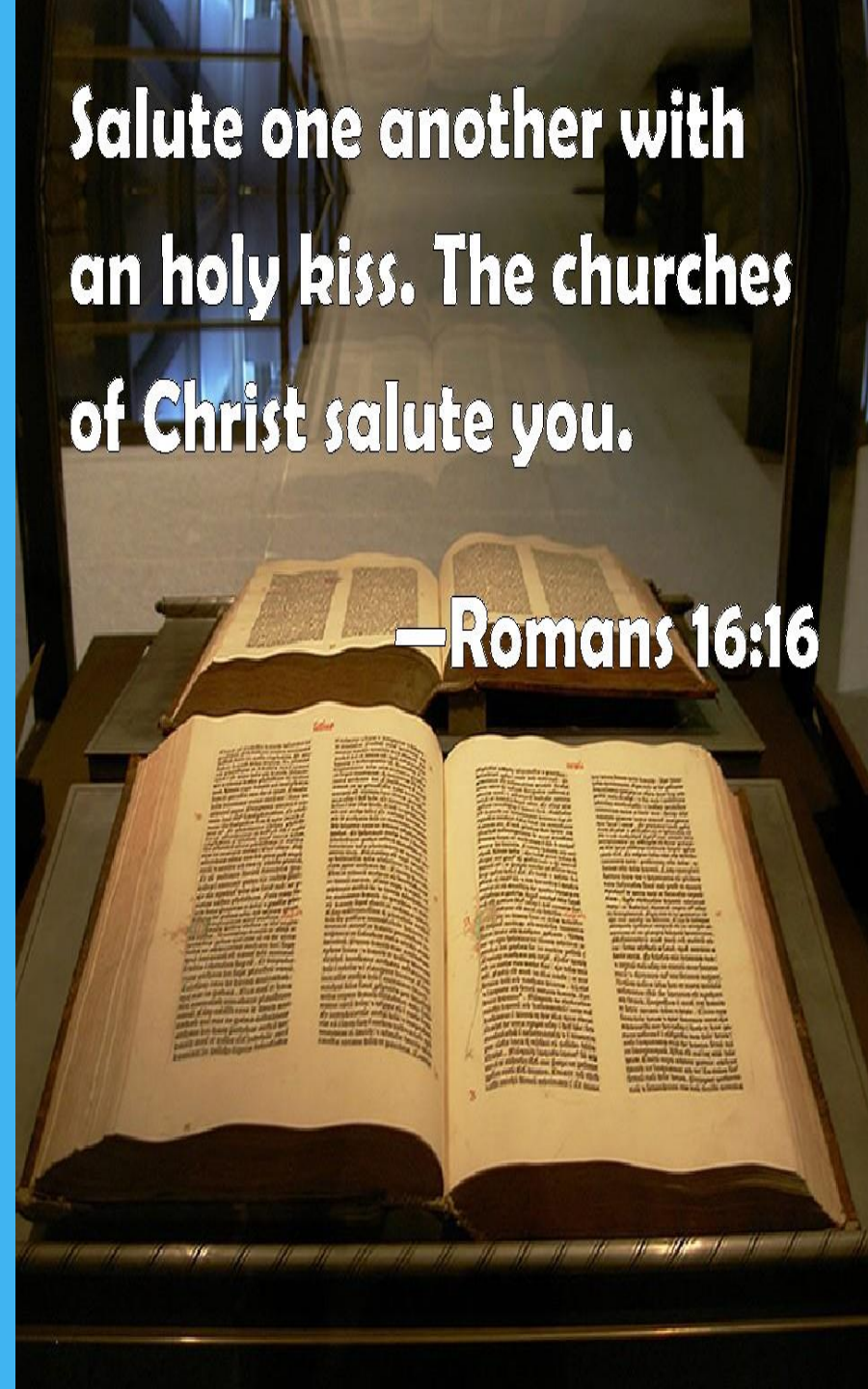
They did not see themselves as establishing a new church. Rather, the movement sought the restoration of the church and "the unification of all Christians in a single body patterned after the church of the New Testament." ~Wikipedia



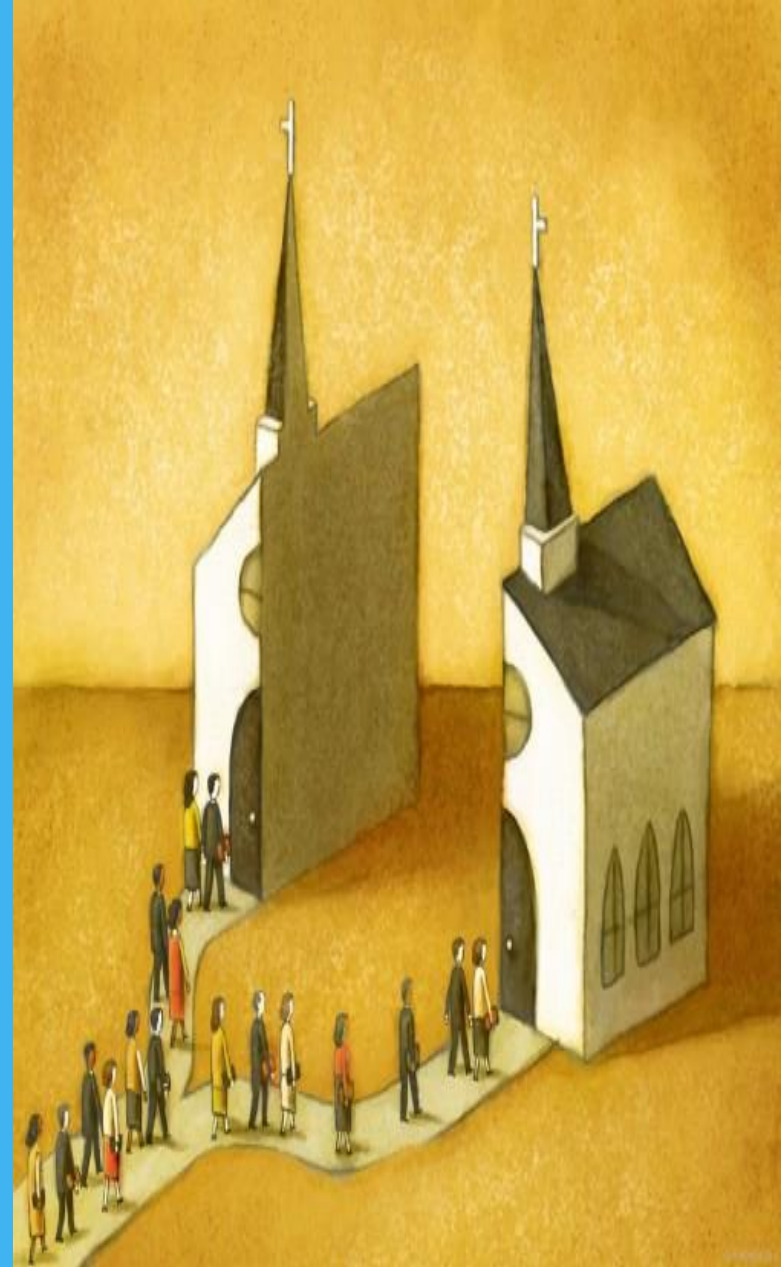
The names "Church of Christ," "Christian Church" and "Disciples of Christ" were adopted by the movement because they believed these terms to be biblical.

Salute one another with  
an holy kiss. The churches  
of Christ salute you.

—Romans 16:16



A division occurred between those who used musical instruments in worship (known as the Christian Church) and those who chose to sing a cappella because the use of instruments is not mentioned in the New Testament.





1Cor 1:10 Brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, I beg all of you to agree with each other. You should not be divided into different groups. Be completely joined together again with the same kind of thinking and the same purpose. ~ERV





For the Churches of Christ, practices not present in accounts of New Testament worship were not permissible in the church, and they could find no New Testament documentation of the use of instrumental music in worship. For the Christian Churches, any practices not expressly forbidden could be considered.~Wikipedia

# **PROVE IT**

## **By The Scriptures**

1 Thessalonians 5:21



1Th 5:21 But test everything. Keep what is good, ~ERV

\* The Bible would be too long if it listed all of the 'thou shalt nots..'

\*Instead, it tell us main things to do,and some which should not be done

# The Restoration Movement has been characterized by several key principles:

- Christ intended the creation of one church.
- Creeds divide, but Christians should be able to find agreement by standing on the Bible itself
- Christians should be able to find common ground by following the practice of the early church.
- Christians should use biblical names for the church (i.e., "Christian Church", "Church of God" or "Church of Christ" as opposed to "Methodist" or "Lutheran", etc.)



# Restoration Movement Slogans

"Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent."

"The church of Jesus Christ on earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one."

"We are Christians only, but not the only Christians."

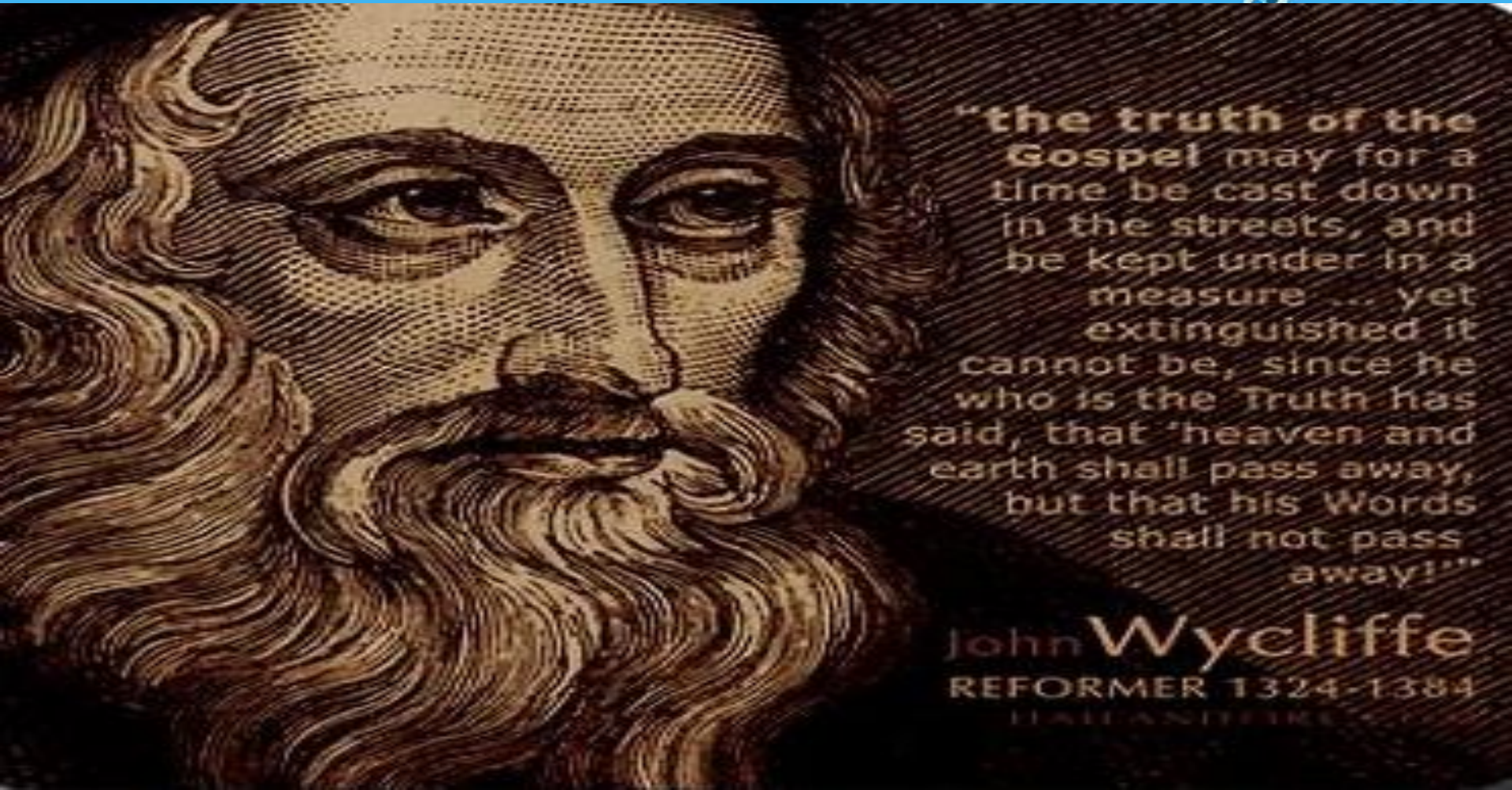
"In essentials, unity; in opinions, liberty; in all things love."

"No creed but Christ, no book but the Bible, no law but love, no name but the divine."

"Do Bible things in Bible ways."

"Call Bible things by Bible names."

# Others in the past wanted Church to return to New Testament




"the truth of the Gospel may for a time be cast down in the streets, and be kept under in a measure ... yet extinguished it cannot be, since he who is the Truth has said, that 'heaven and earth shall pass away, but that his Words shall not pass away!'"

**John Wycliffe**  
REFORMER 1324-1384

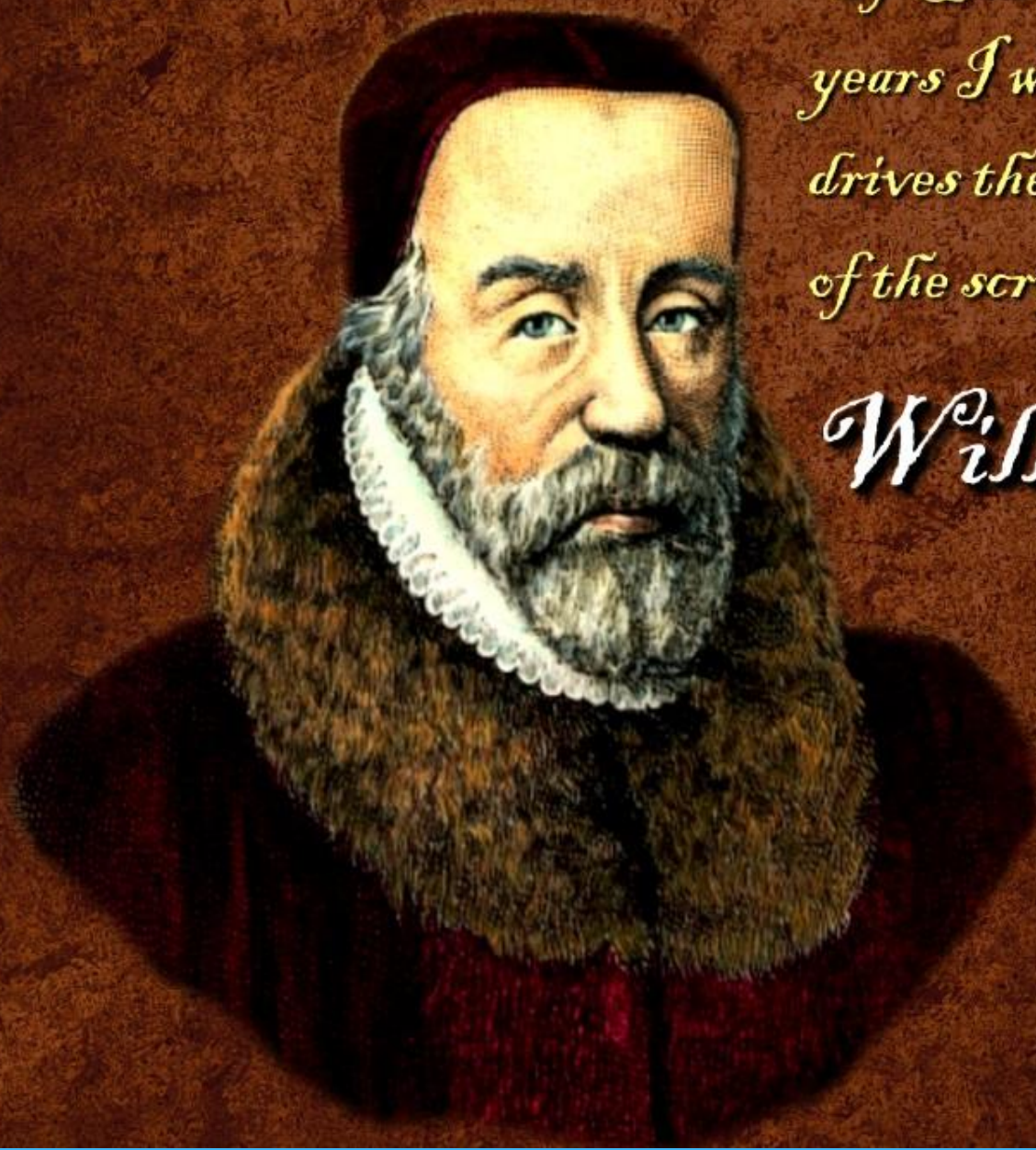
LIAISON ENTRE...





During the late Middle Ages, dissenters such as John Wycliff and John Huss called for a restoration of a primitive form of Christianity, but they were driven underground. As a result, it is difficult to find any direct links between such early dissenters and the restoration movement.






*"If God spare my life, ere many  
years I will cause a boy who  
drives the plough to know more  
of the scriptures than you do."*

*William Tyndale  
(1494-1536)*



# Persecution of Christians by Catholics or State

- John Wycliffe was labeled a 'heretic', because he believed in following The Bible, instead of Catholic doctrine. He worked to translate The Bible into English. He died of stroke, but the pope had him dug up and burned for heresy.
- William Tyndale also translated The Bible into common English so that the people could read it. The King James Bible was mostly that of Tyndale's. He was burned at the stake.



Mat 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Mat 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Mat 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Mat 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Mat 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. ~KJV



2Pe 2:1 In the past there were false prophets among God's people. It is the same now. You will have some false teachers in your group. They will teach things that are wrong--ideas that will cause people to be lost. And they will teach in a way that will be hard for you to see that they are wrong. They will even refuse to follow the Master who bought their freedom. And so they will quickly destroy themselves.

2Pe 2:2 Many people will follow them in the morally wrong things they do. And because of them, others will say bad things about the way of truth we follow.

# How to Avoid Being Led Astray by False Shepherds



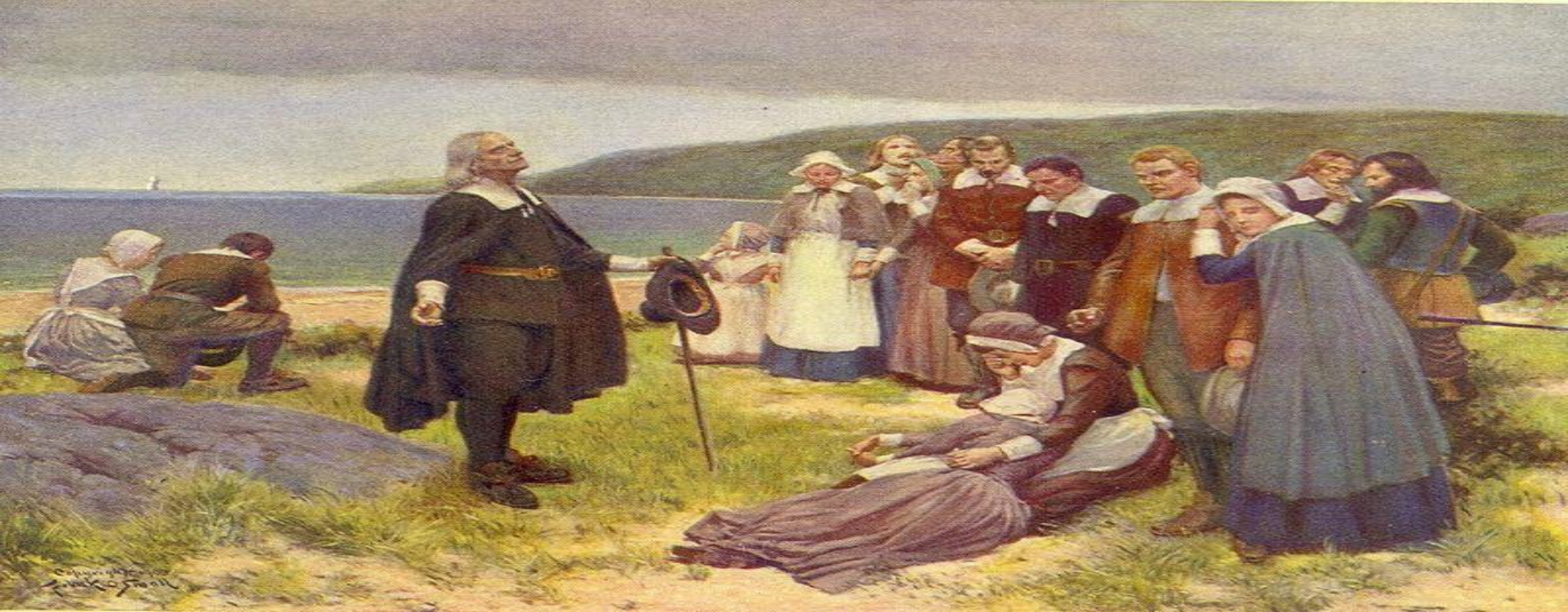
*Things that every Christian needs to know...  
and most shepherds won't tell you.*

2Pe 2:3 These false teachers only want your money. So they will use you by telling you things that are not true. But the judgment against these false teachers has been ready for a long time. And they will not escape God who will destroy them. ~ERV

Many fled to 'New World' ,  
'America', to avoid religious  
persecution







One of the basic goals of the English Puritans was to restore a pure, "primitive" church that would be a true apostolic community. This conception was a critical influence in the development of the Puritans in Colonial America. ~Wikipedia

# So many sought to study The Bible, and follow God's Word



Act 17:11 The people in Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica. They were so glad to hear the message Paul told them. They studied the Scriptures every day to make sure that what they heard was really true. ~ERV

# Summary

- Church of Christ seeks to emulate the ones written about in The New Testament.
- Throughout the centuries, people have wanted to know God's Word, and follow Him.
- Many have persecuted those seeking Bible knowledge, because it would undermine their own authority. They purposely kept the people ignorant, in order to control them.
- How wonderful it is, that we have freedom, and can read The Bible.



# WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED ?

Both Jesus and the apostles (guided by the Holy Spirit)  
taught that to be saved, it is necessary that one:

**Hear**

Romans 10:13-17      John 6:45  
Revelation 1:3

**Believe**

John 2:30-31      Hebrews 11:6  
Acts 16:31

**Repent**

Luke 13:3-5      Acts 2:38  
Acts 17:30-31

**Confess**

Matthew 10:32-33  
Romans 10:9-10

**Be Baptized**

Mark 16:15-16      1 Peter 3:21  
Acts 2:38      Acts 22:16

**Live Godly**

Titus 2:11-14      Romans 12:1-2  
2 Peter 1:5-11

# The Great Commission

*"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have Commanded you: and, lo, I am with you Always, even unto the end of the world.*

*Amen."*

*Jesus*

*Matthew 28:19-20*

