Introduction:
A. (Slide #2) Review Of Last Week’s Lesson:
   1. (Slide #3) Christ Built HIS Church In The First Century!

   2. (Slide #4) Sadly, Prophecies Foretold Apostasies.
      a. (Slide #5) 1 Tim. 4:1-3 “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter
times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits
and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own
conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and
commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received
with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”

      b. (Slide #6) II Pet. 2:1,2 “But there were also false prophets among the
people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will
secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who
bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many
will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth
will be blasphemed.”

3. There Have Been Many Apostasies Throughout The Last Two Thousand
   Years.
   a. (Slide #7) In the First Century:
      1. At The Fall of Jerusalem. Mt. 24:10-13; 23-26
      2. Pre-Gnostic And Gnostic Doctrines. I John
      3. Christians Wilting In The Face Of Domitian Caesar’s
         Proclamations -- “Worship ME Or Die!” Revelation
      4. Exaltation Of One Elder To “THE BISHOP!”
   b. (Slide #8) Apostasies in Succeeding Generations:
      2. Changes in the Standard of Authority or Teaching.
      4. Doctrinal Changes.

4. (Slide #9) Attempts at Reformation:
a. From the 800’s - the 1500’s Catholics pled for reformation; however those pleas failed.
   1. The Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
   2. The common person can understand the Bible!
   3. The priesthood of all believers.
   4. Rejection of any intermediaries between the believer and Christ -- Mary, intercession of saints, etc.
   5. They went WAY TOO FAR -- in opposition to justification by works through sacraments, the reformers promoted justification by faith Only!

b. The sad impact of the failure of the Reformation Movement:
   1. There was an explosion in number of churches based upon men’s ideas (many were the result of reaction to and disagreement with the beliefs of other religions):
      a. Orthodox Church -- 1054 A.D.
      b. It rejected the papacy; they claimed that all bishops were equal.
      c. The Protestant Reformation:
         1. Lutheran Church 1517
         2. Baptist Church 1522
         3. Anglican Church 1536
         4. Methodist Church 1729
   2. Differences in views about the standard of teaching and authority, rejection of Papal authority, opposition to worship of saints, debates over the “mode” of baptism, rejection of celibacy, and disagreements about church organization led to all of these churches coming into existence.

5. (Slide #10) Throughout history there have been Restoration Movements:
   a. Hezekiah In Judah. II Ki. 18:3-6 (25 years old)
   b. Josiah In Judah. II Ki. 22:8-11 (8 years old; at age 26 the Book of the Law was found)
   d. Ezra And Nehemiah Worked With The Returnees From Babylonian Captivity.
   e. The American Restoration Movement (1700’s - 1800’s).

6. (Slide #11) The Major Principle of this Movement -- Reformation is NOT the answer; RESTORATION IS!
   a. They did not want to be Protestants; they wanted to be Christians! They did not want to protest against Catholicism or try to reform it; they wanted to restore New Testament Christianity in the world!
   b. The New Testament Scriptures are the ONLY authoritative rule of faith and practice for the Christian.
      1. The Bible should be our ONLY standard.
      2. Sola Scriptura!
a. Scripture alone constitutes the source of Divine revelation for the Christian, and is the ONLY authority for Christian faith and practice.

b. Alexander Campbell said, “I have endeavored to read the Scriptures as though no one had read them before me, and I am as much on my guard against reading them today, through the medium of my own views yesterday, or a week ago, as I am against being influenced by any foreign name, authority, or system whatever.”

3. No book but the Bible!

c. Rejection of ALL human creeds.
   1. Religious creeds lead to such division.
   2. “Let us cast aside all denominational names, creeds, doctrines, and practices which divide the Christian world and just wear the name ‘Christian’ and be only members of the New Testament church.”

d. Baptism is absolutely essential to salvation!

e. Churches must teach, worship, and promote patterns of life that follow the Divine pattern.

f. Unity of Christians upon the basis of the Bible.
   1. Religious division is sinful!
   2. All who wish to follow Christ should be united in HIS TRUTHS!
   3. They believed that those who followed Christ should be in ONE Church, not in denominations!
   4. Their goal was to leave denominations and to form congregations that were loyal only to Christ and that were based only upon His teachings!

g. They had deep respect for the office of the eldership in each congregation.

h. They were committed to the priesthood of all believers!

i. They rejected the idea of “Once saved, always saved.”

j. We need to appreciate what people have done in the past; we need to learn from them; WE DO NOT believe what we believe because of what they taught; our faith is in Jesus Christ and in His Testament, the New Testament!!!

B. (Slide #12) The Danger Of Revisionist History And Revisionism:
   1. Sometimes more is added to history because things have been purposefully hidden or overlooked for years or centuries. This is NOT “Revisionist history;” it is correcting historical accounts.

   2. Revisionist history is disgusting!
      a. It involves people in generations after events occur of trying to “re-interpret” the accepted historical record or to “rewrite history.”
b. Examples:
1. Some claim that Hitler was not responsible for 6 million Jews being executed. [Example: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s 2007 speech at Columbia University, when he stated that the Holocaust didn’t happen.]
2. The Japanese general claiming that Japan only attacked Pearl Harbor as a defensive measure and that in reality they were bullied into that attack by the U.S.

c. Revisionism about the Bible:
1. The earth came into existence through evolution over millions and billions of years.
2. Jonah and the whale, Sodom and Gomorrah, and Noah and the Flood are merely fables. (To hold that view makes Jesus a liar -- He identified all three as real events.)

d. Revisionist history Biblically -- the claims about what happened to the body of Jesus -- the Jews claimed the disciples of Jesus STOLE the body! REALLY! Right under the noses of the Roman soldiers?

3. In the last Century, many have tried to revision the Restoration Movement and its slogans!!!

4. In this lesson we examine those slogans, what they meant, and how they have been misapplied or revisioned.
   a. Many have exalted their views about God’s views.
      1. Mal. 3:8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.”
      2. Mk. 7:9-11 “He said to them, ‘All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.’” But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, ‘Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban’--’ (that is, a gift to God),”
   b. Many try to put words into the mouths of people from the past!
   c. A CAUTION as you study a person’s life -- you must be careful to compare what they believed and said EARLY IN LIFE with what they taught and practiced later in life!
      1. People values change!
      2. Their understandings change!
      3. They learn new truths!
      4. Examples:
         a. John Mark -- coward
         b. Matthew -- thieving tax collector!
c. Saul of Tarsus -- terrorist against Christians; murderer!
   1. Early in his life he proclaimed that Jesus was an imposter, that the Law of Moses was God’s Law for the Jews, and that they had to obey all the Laws of the Old Testament!
   2. However, later in life he exalted Christ as the Messiah, the New Covenant as His Law, the Gospel as the way of salvation for ALL MANKIND -- Jews and Gentiles, and adamantly refused to bind O.T. principles upon man -- like Titus being circumcised.
   3. You cannot take his teachings from early in his life and claim that is what Paul believed and taught. He repented and taught the Truth!
      a. Read the conversion accounts in Acts 9 and Acts 22.
      b. I Tim. 1:12-14 “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”
      c. And he would gratefully say, “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” I Cor. 15:10

5. Let’s examine those slogans and how they have been misapplied.

I. (Slide #13) “Where The Bible Speaks, We Speak; Where The Bible Is Silent, We Are Silent.”
   A. This Phrase Was In The Preface Of Thomas Campbell’s Declaration And Address.

   B. They Loved The Bible And Were Determined To Let It Be Their Sole Authority!
      1. They sought to submit only to God’s rules.
      2. They sought to go back to the New Testament and to practice only those things taught there!
      3. They rejected human teachings or opinions and refused to bind them upon men.
4. They believed the Bible was the seed of the Kingdom, Lk. 8:11, and that it would produce only Christians, members of the Lord’s Church, as it had done since the First Century.

5. Their premise -- what the Bible commands, we will command; what it does NOT command, we will not command.

C. What The Restorers Meant:
   1. Obey what Scripture authorizes!

   2. I Pet. 4:11 “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.”

   3. Col. 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

4. They realized that when God specified certain people, actions, or things, that all others were excluded!
   a. If God gave a “general command,” we are free to choose the type of action!
   b. However, if he gave a “specific command,” all others are excluded!
   c. Heb. 7:14 “For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.”
      1. God specified the tribe of Levi as the priests.
      2. That excluded all other tribes from being priests!
      3. Paul’s argument: there HAS TO BE a different Law than the Law of Moses in effect today; otherwise, Jesus could NOT BE the High Priest!

4. We understand this principle today when we:
   a. Order food in the drive-through of a fast food restaurant.
   b. Go to the restroom!

D. Revisionist History:
   1. Many began to twist that slogan and to say “WHATEVER IS NOT STRICTLY FORBIDDEN IS ALLOWED!”

   2. Nowhere was this argument used more strongly than in the demand to bring instrumental music into the worship service.

3. This was the position of L. L. Pinkerton at Midway Christian Church in Midway, Ky.
   a. Pinkerton was baptized by Alexander Campbell.
   b. He was a farmer; he became a doctor; later he became a preacher.
c. He came to Midway, KY and there introduced instrumental music in the worship!
   1. He did so because he said the singing was of such poor quality that he was at his “breaking point!” He said their singing would “scare even the rats from worship.”
   2. A small antique melodeon was used at Midway Christian Church.
   3. The instrument was first used for singing practices held on Saturday night, but was soon used during the worship on Sunday.
   4. Pinkerton got Thompson Parrish, the son of James Ware Parrish to play the melodeon in the worship service.
   5. Adam Hibler, one of the elders who called the instrument “an instrument of Satan”, took his slave Reuben to the building. Hibler held the window open, Reuben crawled in, got the melodeon, and passed it out to Hibler. They took an ax and chopped the melodeon to pieces in the front lawn of the building.
   6. Anger erupted; another melodeon was brought in. Hibler took Reuben back to the building, took the melodeon and hid it in the attic of his barn.
   7. A third melodeon was then brought in -- it was destroyed years later when the building burnt.
   8. Years later Hibler’s barn was being cleaned out and the second melodeon was found and was taken to Midway College and placed in the library where it still resides in a position of honor there.
   9. This little melodeon became THE impetus that led to a cataclysmic divide between the Christian Churches and the Church of Christ.

4. The events at Midway show how people continue to push and push until finally opposition quiets.

II. (Slide #14) “We Are Christians Only, But Not The Only Christians.”

A. They Realized That There Were People In Many Denominations Who Were SICK Of Man-Made Rules And Wanted To Be Loyal Only To Christ!

B. Their Call -- Leave Denominations, Leave Error, Establish Congregations Based Simply Upon Christ’s Teachings.

C. Another Phrase: “The Church Of Jesus Christ On Earth Is Essentially, Intentionally, And Constitutionally One.”
   1. They knew Jesus’ prayer that they all may be one! Jn. 17:21
   2. They wanted to avoid the sectarianism condemned by Paul in I Cor. 1:10.
D. Early In The Movement, They Had Different Names:
   1. The followers of Stone -- “Christians”.
   2. The followers of the Campbell’s -- “Disciples of Christ”.

E. Revisionist History:
   1. Many have claimed that the restorers accepted people with different beliefs.
      a. They did because they were “coming OUT” of denominations themselves.
      b. They respected others who were on the same journey.
      c. They longed for all to be united in the truth of Christ!
      d. They, like the Apostle Paul, were growing and were coming to Truth!
   2. But the present-day revisionists are going right back into denominationalism!
      a. In fact, they have become ecumenical -- accepting people in denominations as faithful Christians.
      b. They accept different teachings about salvation, church organization, standards of authority, views about names and titles, etc.
      c. They have opposed Christ’s teaching about the sinfulness of denominationalism.

III. (Slide #15) “Do Bible Things In Bible Ways; Call Bible Things By Bible Names.”
   A. The Restorers Wanted Things Done As The Bible Teaches.
      1. They rejected Calvinism.
      2. They gave up sprinkling!
         a. Alexander Campbell and his wife are great examples.
         b. Campbell married Margaret Brown on March 12, 1811.
         c. When she got pregnant, people asked if they were going to sprinkle their baby.
         d. Their first child, a daughter, was born on March 13, 1812.
         e. Her birth caused Alexander and Margaret to study the subject of baptism.
         f. Finding neither original sin, infant baptism, or sprinkling, they rejected them all!
      3. They wanted congregations overseen by elders and no higher ecclesiastical organization!
      4. They wanted congregations to be under the authority of Christ with no organization overseeing the work of the church in any other way.
B. Call Bible Things By Bible Names.
   1. They affirmed that all Christians are priests! I Pet. 2:5,9
   
   2. “Christians” are those who belong to Christ, not just people who are religious.
   
   3. They opposed the idea of the clergy; therefore they opposed calling the preacher “Reverend.”
   
   4. They affirmed that “pastors” are elders; therefore they opposed calling the preacher “Pastor.”

C. Deviation From This Slogan -- Missionary Society.
   1. On October 23, 1849, a group of individuals met in Cincinnati, OH with the intention of establishing an organization that would collect funds from all congregations and that would oversee mission work.

   2. This organization was set up to take fund from congregations; it would decide who they missionaries were, where they went, and their salaries.

   3. This took total control out of the hands of the elders of each congregation to fulfill the Lord’s call for congregations to be mission-minded!

IV. (Slide #16) “No Creed But Christ, No Book But The Bible, No Law But Love, No Name But The Divine.”
   A. Why Would They Affirm This Slogan?

B. They Came From Many Different Backgrounds!
   1. James O’Kelly -- Methodist (Methodist Discipline); sprinkling, ecclesiastical organization of bishops over all of the congregations.

   2. Elias Smith and Abner Jones -- Baptists; they believed in immersion.

      a. They were all taught Calvinism.
      b. This had amazing impact upon their who approach to Scripture.

C. Their Only Authority -- The New Testament!

D. At The Same Time, They Wanted To Show Great Respect To Each Other!
E. They Wanted The Church To Be Called “The Church Of Christ” And The Followers, “Christians!”

F. Deviation From This Slogan -- Love Is Exalted As THE Major Concern; Doctrine Is Minimalized And Fellowship Is Extended To People With All Kinds Of Faiths.

V. (Slide #17) **“In Essentials, Unity; In Opinions, Liberty; In All Things Love.”**

A. They Came From Different Beliefs And Backgrounds.

B. Yet, They All Sought Just To Please Christ And To Obey The New Testament.

C. Therefore They Were Determined To Have:
   1. Unity in belief about essential Biblical teachings.

   2. Liberty in opinions. They sought to be FREE from the demands of church organizations that were NOT Bible-based! (This is like the demand of Jews upon First Century Christians to be circumcised!)

   3. Love for each other; respect that they genuinely desired to please God!

   4. They knew God’s calls:
      a. I Cor. 1:10 “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

      b. Rom. 14:4,5 “Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.”

      c. Jn. 13:34,35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

      d. Eph. 4:15 “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ.”
D. Deviation From This Slogan -- Love Has Been Exalted, Liberty Has Been Extended In Doctrine; There Is No Expectation For Agreement In Doctrine; As Long As One Has Some Beliefs About Jesus, He Is Accepted And Fellowshipped.

Devoti(Slide #18) Conclusion:
A. The American Restoration Movement Was Amazing!

B. We Should Appreciate These People’s Journey; We Should Admire Their Goal - - The Proclamation Of The Pure Gospel Of Jesus Christ, Loyalty To It, And Unity Of Believers.

C. Although We Admire Them, We Do Not Believe Anything Because THEY Said So; Our Loyalty Is To Jesus Christ, Not Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stone, Or Any Other Restoration Leader.

D. However, It Is Critical To Understand What Was Happening -- These Good Men Were Teaching Themselves Out Of Denominationalism; They Were Learning, Growing, And Proclaiming What They Learned!

E. If People Today Do Not Realize What Was Happening, They Will Revision History And Totally Misapply What Those Sincere Men Were Saying.

F. And It Is Tragic To See The Misapplication Of The Movement’s Slogans:
   1. There was ultimately a split in 1906 -- the Christian Churches and the Churches of Christ.
   2. Then in 1960 the Christian Churches split -- the Disciples of Christ and the Christian Churches.
   3. In the past denominationalists regaled to call members of the Churches Of Christ, “Campbellites.” This is not as common now as it was in the past.

F. May Our Goal Be To Love Jesus Christ, To Love The New Testament, And To Be Loyal To Him And To Him Alone!