

THE RESTORATION PLEA (3)

Luke 8:4-11

Introduction:

1. **Otis Gatewood and Roy Palmer of the churches of Christ were the first missionaries to enter Germany at the close of W.W. II.**
2. **They met a college professor in Berlin named Hans Grimm.**
 - a. **Hans Grimm was born in Germany and educated at several universities in Europe.**
 - b. **He was writing a history of churches of Christ in Europe when he was arrested by the Nazis in 1934 and imprisoned.**
 - c. **The Nazis destroyed his library and his manuscript.**
 - d. **At his release, Grimm began again to write his book, but it was destroyed in the bombing of Germany in 1944.**
 - e. **In 1948, the Communists in East Germany put him in prison for four years for preaching an “illegal” religion.**
3. **Hans Grimm told brethren Gatewood and Palmer that he too was a member of the Lord’s church, but this was his first contact with his American brethren.**
 - a. **He further said his family had been members of the church of Christ for many generations.**
 - b. **His research proved that churches of Christ had existed in Central and Eastern Europe for centuries.**
 - c. **They were largely wiped out by the Nazis and Communists.**
 - d. **I have a copy of brother Grimm’s book, Traditions and History of the Early Churches of Christ in Europe.**
4. **The New Testament is the “seed of the kingdom.”**
 1. **Wherever the New Testament is taught accurately and obeyed, the Lord’s church comes into being.**
 2. **Therefore, we should not be surprised that others besides us have also restored the new Testament church.**

5. **Certain principles or fundamentals are necessary for the restoration of the Lord's church.**

Discussion:

I. FOR RESTORATION TO BE POSSIBLE THERE MUST BE A RETURN TO THE PLAN OF SALVATION.

A. In the 4th and 5th centuries, the writings of Augustine greatly influenced the evolving Roman Catholic Church.

1. **He taught all were born in sin for all sinned in Adam.**
2. **Infant baptism was necessary to remove the taint of original sin.**
3. **God predestined some to be saved and others lost.**
4. **The elect were not able to do anything to save themselves.**
5. **The Holy Spirit directly instilled faith in their hearts.**
6. **These points were later adopted by John Calvin and became the foundation of Reformed Protestantism.**

B. John Calvin's teaching is usually presented in the five point plan set forth in the acrostic "TULIP."

1. **"T" stands for "Total hereditary depravity"- children are born in sin inherited from their parents.**

"The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself" (Ezekiel 18:20).

2. **"U" stands for "Unconditional election"- God has arbitrarily elected some to be saved and the rest to lost, and the number cannot be altered even by one.**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

- 3. “L” stands for “Limited atonement”- Christ did not die for all men but only for the elect.**

“But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone” (Hebrews 2:9).

- 4. “I” stands for “Irresistible grace”- the elect will receive God’s grace and be saved, whether they want to be saved or not.**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8).

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:10; Acts 16:30-32).

- 5. “P” stands for “Perseverance of the saints”- once saved, always saved - you cannot fall from grace.**

“Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).

“You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace” (Galatians 5:4 - ASV 1901).

II. THE SCRIPTURAL PLAN OF SALVATION IS PLAINLY GIVEN.

- A. The Gospel must be preached so sinners can hear and believe.**

“For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher” (Romans 10:13,14)?

B. The Gospel requires repentance from past sins (Acts 2:38).

- 1. Repentance is “a change of the mind, brought about by Godly sorrow, and resulting in a change of life.”**
- 2. Repentance must always come before baptism.**

C. The Gospel requires a confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:18; Acts 8:37).

“But what does it say? ‘The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the Word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:8-10).

D. One must be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins.

- 1. Calvinists teach baptism is a work and therefore no part of salvation for salvation is by faith alone.**
- 2. Jesus put baptism before salvation (Mark 16:16).**
- 3. Peter put baptism before remission of sins (Acts 2:38)**
- 4. Saul prayed and fasted, but was still in his sins until he arose and was baptized (Acts 22:16).**

Conclusion:

- 1. Walter Scott taught one must “believe, repent and be baptized to receive the remission of sins and gift of the Spirit.”**
- 2. William Amend of New Lisbon, Ohio obeyed the first time he heard the plan of salvation preached.**

