

Go Ye and Teach

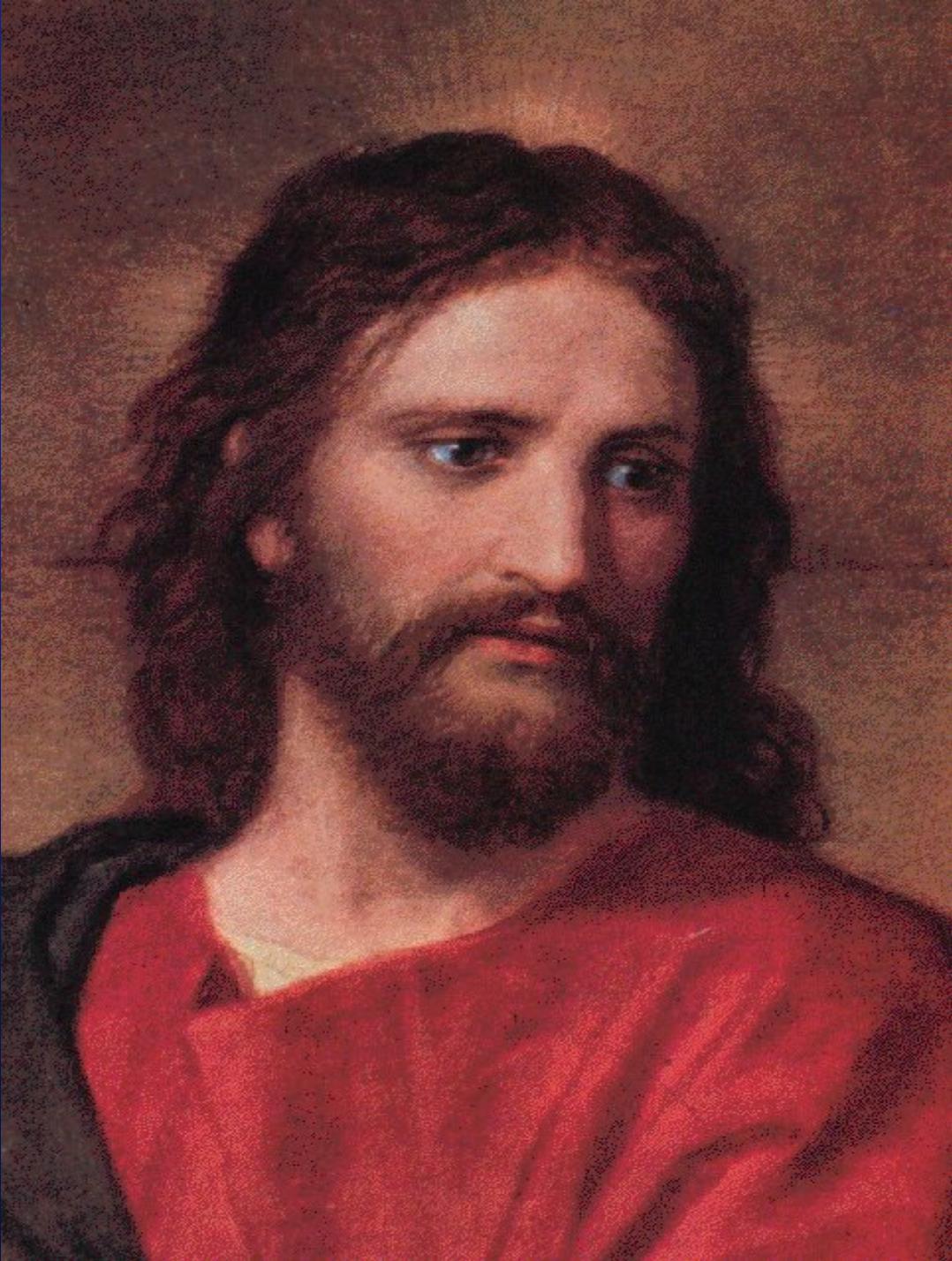
The Falling Away

Events in the Apostasy

- Christ crucified unjustly
 - Arose on the third day
- Christ foretold an apostasy
- Christianity departed from God's truth
 - Church grew rapidly after He departed
 - » For a short while
- Christian doctrines and practices were changed
 - Taught and believed perverted doctrine

Preface

- Reformation led to further division
- Further perverted doctrines arose
- Christian message profoundly diluted
- Witness is divided
- Christ promised to restore His church



● Jesus Christ

- Center of all we believe
- Son of God
- Prince of Peace



ROCK OF REVELATION

- The Church of Christ
 - Complete
- Foundation
- Chief Cornerstone
- Priesthood
- Gifts of the Spirit
- Doctrines of
 - Laying on of Hands
 - Resurrection of the Dead
 - Eternal Judgment
- Stewardship
- Pure love of God



- The Triumphal Entry
- Matthew 21: 5-11
- Multitudes followed Christ
 - Wonderment at miracles
 - Respect for miracles
 - Mistaken belief that Christ would
 - » Overthrow Romans
 - » Become an earthly king



- The Last Supper
- Luke 22:8-20
- Disciples re-dedicated themselves to follow Him
- Commanded to do this frequently
- Always in remembrance of Him
- Baptized members seem to be the only ones who partook of the Lord's Supper
- Sets precedent for His church



- Gethsemane
- Matthew 26:36-46
- Christ in the Garden



- The Betrayal and Arrest
- Matthew 26:47-56
- Judas betrayed Christ
- Religious leaders arrested Christ
 - Not civil leaders



- The Trial before Jewish Authorities
- Mark 14:53-64



- Jesus Before the Mob
- Mark 15:1-14
- Matthew 27:11-26
- Under Jewish law
 - Blasphemy is punishable by death
 - Requires Roman governor's sentence as well
- Pilate could not find Christ guilty
- Mob insisted Christ die
- Pilate washes his hands



- Christ Scourged
- Mark 15:15



- Jesus, King of the Jews
- Mark 15:17-20
- Crown of thorns
- Mocked by soldiers



- Journey to Golgotha
- Luke 23:26
- Christ stumbles under the weight of the cross
- Simon of Cyrene compelled to carry it the rest of the way



- Jesus on the Cross
- Matthew 27:33-37
- Nails pierce His hands and feet



- The Crucifixion
- Matthew 27:38-40
- Hung on the Cross
 - Until dead
- Falsely
 - accused
 - condemned
 - crucified
- Would they follow their king to the cross?
- Would we follow Christ to the cross?
- Will we stand by Him?



- It Is Finished
 - Luke 23:44-46
 - John 19:30
 - Matthew 27:51, 54
- Three hours
 - intense darkness
 - terrible earthquakes
 - during daylight hours
 - convinced even the ridiculers that Jesus was the Son of God



- Resurrection Morning
- Luke 24:1-9
- Jesus was resurrected
 - Just as He prophesied



- The Unbelief of Thomas
- John 20:19-29
- Many of us are like Thomas
 - Expect physical proof of everything spiritual
 - Some things we must believe without seeing with our natural eyes
 - Jesus appeared to people on other occasions after resurrection
 - » Luke 24:12-44
 - » John 21:1-14
 - » 1 Corinthians 15:4-8



- The Great Commission
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Mark 16:15-18
- Command to disciples
 - Teach all that Jesus taught
 - Baptize people in the name of Christ
 - Promise
 - » Christ is with us unto the ends of the world



- Jesus Ascends to Heaven
- Acts 1:9-11
- Angels repeat the promise that Jesus is to return
- His return will be in the same manner as His departure



- Pentecost
 - Acts 1:4-5
 - Acts 2:1-6
- Jesus fulfilled the promise of giving the Holy Ghost to the disciples
- Final evidence to the divinity of Christ
- Disciples went forth preaching mightily



- Christian Devotion
 - Acts 2:41-47
 - Acts 4:32-33
- Outstanding devotion to Christ
- Recognition of stewardship responsibilities
- Giving Christ first place
- Selling possessions
 - laying the proceeds at the feet of the disciples



- Distribution to Every Man
 - Acts 4:34-35
- Funds that were turned in were distributed among the members, each as had need.

A Dark Day Foretold

- Micah 3:6-7
- Had the Spirit continued with the disciples, all would have been well
- Micah foretold of a dark day ahead for the church
- Spiritual darkness is night

Spiritual Famine

- Amos 8:11-12
- Spiritual darkness viewed by Amos as spiritual famine

Paul Sees This Time

- 2 Timothy 4:3-4
- Paul sees this time of spiritual darkness and famine

Falling Away Prophesied

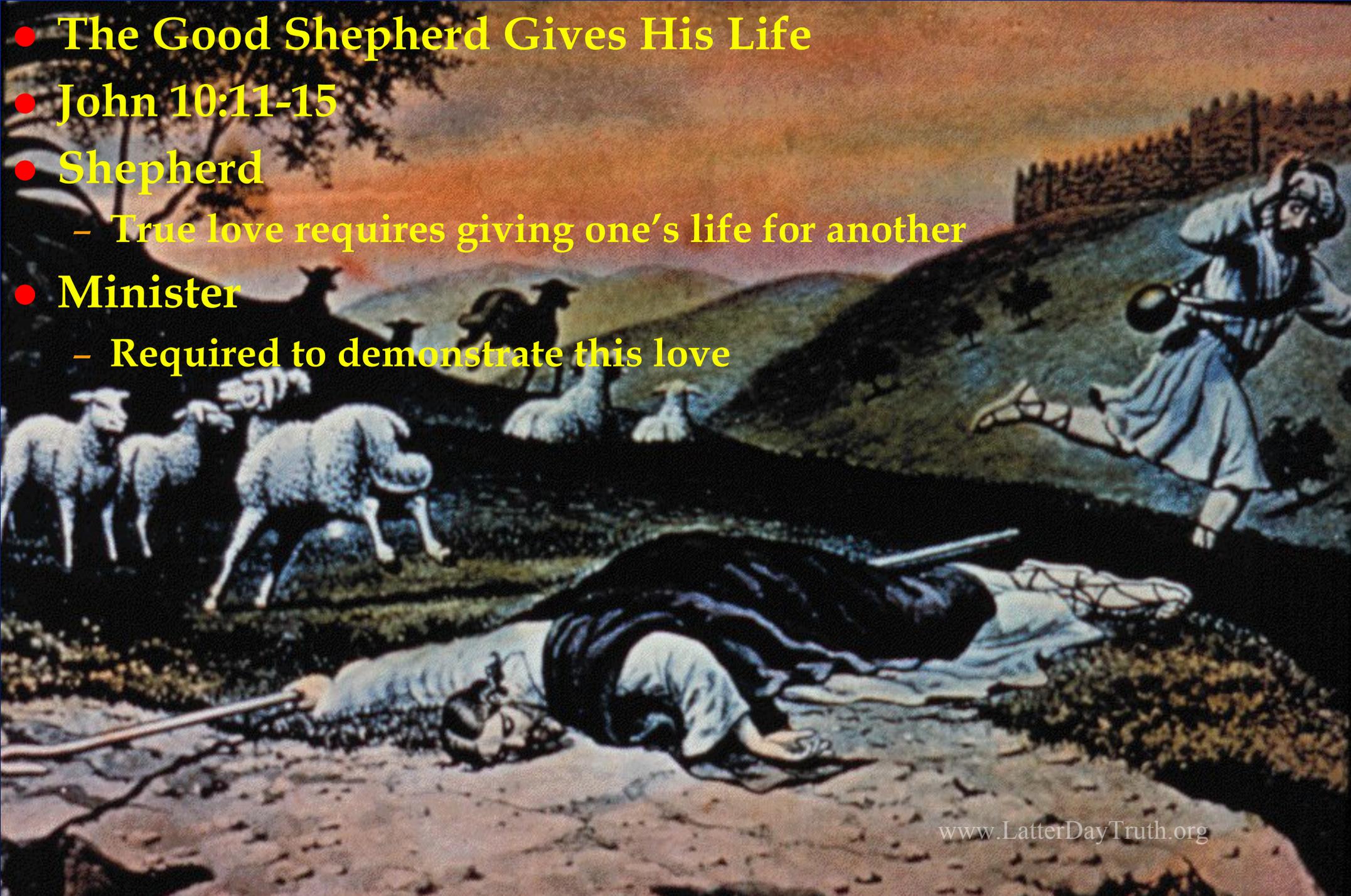
- 2 Thessalonians 2:2-3
- Before Christ comes again
 - Must be a falling away first
 - ‘falling away’ is an apostasy

Caused from Within the Church

- Acts 20:29-31
- Falling away comes from within
- Men deliberately trying to deceive
- Urgent warning
 - Three years ... night and day with tears



- **The Hirelings Flee**
- **John 10:12-14**
- **Hirelings**
 - Do not own the sheep
 - Hired to watch them for a wage
 - Interests in the sheep do not arise out of love for them
- **Shepherds in the Church**
 - Hirelings
 - Lost their love for the sheep



- **The Good Shepherd Gives His Life**
- **John 10:11-15**
- **Shepherd**
 - True love requires giving one's life for another
- **Minister**
 - Required to demonstrate this love

What Became of the Church That Christ Built?

- What can be the end of a church
 - where ministers are not genuinely interested in people
 - » suffers
 - » dies
 - » is scattered
- Appears to be exactly what happened

Ye are so soon removed

- Galatians 1: 6-8
 - Changes and false teachings come into the church that Christ built

John Wesley

- We seldom hear of them [gifts of the Holy Ghost] after the fatal period, when the emperor Constantine called himself a Christian: From this time they almost totally ceased: The cause of this was not, (as had been vulgarly supposed,) “because there was no more occasion for them,” because all of the world became Christian.
... continued ...

John Wesley

- This is a miserable mistake: not a twentieth part of it [the world] was then nominally Christian. The real cause was, “the love of many” almost of all Christians, so called, was “waxed cold”. The Christians had no more of the Spirit of Christ, than the other heathens.
... continued ...

John Wesley

- This was the real cause why extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost were no longer to be found in the Christian church; because the Christians were turned heathens again, and had only a dead form left.

Wesley's Sermons, Volume 2, page 266

- **Matthew 3:13-17**
- **Christ was baptized by immersion**
 - **Not so in many churches today**
 - » **Sprinkling**
 - » **Pouring**
 - » **Not even necessary in some denominations**
- **Baptism is necessary**





- Jesus Blesses Little Children
 - Luke 2:22-32
- Baptism of infants
 - Scripturally unsound
 - No authority given for this



- Jesus Heals the Woman
- Mark 5:25-29
 - As faith in Christ's power is lost
 - » Men looked to Mary ... mother of God ... for healing
 - Today, a return to belief in healing
 - » Many still deny its possibility



- The Last Supper
- Luke 22:8-20
 - Bread and Wine
 - Emblems of his broken body and spilled blood
 - Yet, considered by many churches to be the *actual* body and blood of Christ



- The Call of Matthew
- Luke 5:27-28
- Matthew 9:9
- Jesus *chose* His ministers



- The Calling of Four Fishermen
- Luke 5:1-11
- Priesthood authority
- Called of God, as was Aaron
 - Call initiated through Moses
 - Confirmed to Aaron
- Today's denominations
 - Call to ministry initiated by the person themselves



- The Transfiguration
- Luke 9:28-31
- Few Christians doubt the record of Peter, James, and John
- Many doubt that visions occur today



- The Angel and the Shepherds
- Luke 2:8-14
- Another experience with angels
- Some Christians today would doubt or ridicule anyone who said they saw angels
- Evidence of an apostasy
 - A falling away



- Unbelief of Thomas
- John 20:24-29
- Today ... many doubts about the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ

Mosheim

- German Protestant theologian and historian ... 1750
- Indicates how early the apostasy began
- Cause
 - changing of doctrines and worship

The Great Historian, Mosheim

- The Christian church was scarcely formed when in different places, there started up a certain pretended reformer, who not satisfied with the simplicity of that religion that was taught by the Apostles, meditated changes of doctrine and worship.

(First Century, Chapter 5, Page 2)

Mosheim

- There is no institution so pure and excellent which the corruption and folly of man will not in time alter for the worse, and load with additions foreign to its natures and original designs. Such in a particular manner, was the fate of Christianity. In this century, many unnecessary rites and ceremonies ...

Mosheim

- ... were added to the Christian worship, the introduction of which was extremely offensive to wise and good men.
(*Second Century*, Chapter 4, Page 2)
- Doctrinal changes should be offensive

Mosheim

- During this [seventh] century true religion lay buried under a senseless mass of superstitions, and was unable to raise her head. The earlier Christians had worshipped only God and His Son; but those called Christians in this century worshipped the wood of a cross, the images of holy men, and bones of dubious origin.
Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, p. 250

Evidences of the Apostasy

- 200 A.D. Prayers offered for the dead
- 254 A.D. Baptism of infants required
- 360 A.D. Adoration of saints begun
- 438 A.D. Mary called “Mother of God”
- 500 A.D. Priest began to dress differently
- 593 A.D. Prayers offered to Mary

Evidences of the Apostasy

- 682 A.D. Holy water introduced
- 708 A.D. Ritual of kissing Pope's toe introduced
- 817 A.D. Cardinals created
- 988 A.D. Fasting on Friday and Lent began
- 1079 A.D. Marriage of priests forbidden
(Existing marriages were dissolved.)

Evidences of the Apostasy

- 1090 A.D. Rosary beads introduced
- 1100 A.D. Money was accepted for masses
- 1190 A.D. Sale of indulgences begun
- 1215 A.D. Transubstantiation of bread and wine declared. Oral confession before priests required.
- 1229 A.D. Catholics not allowed to read the Bible

Evidences of the Apostasy

- 1263 A.D. Sacrament cup forbidden to people at Communion
- 1311 A.D. Baptism by sprinkling legalized
- 1854 A.D. Immaculate conception by Mary taught
- 1870 A.D. Infallibility of Pope declared
- 1950 A.D. Assumption of Mary proclaimed

Luther

The Wesleys

Roger Williams

Alexander Campbell

Sir Isaac Newton

John Robinson



Each of these men realized that *reform* would never work -- but that the church must be *restored* by the Lord instead. www.LatterDayTruth.org

- **Martin Luther**
- **A priest in the Roman Catholic Church**
- **Convinced of its apostasy**
- **Disturbed by its apostasy**
- **Risked his life to make a public protest**
- **Followers named their church after him.**



Martin Luther

- “I cannot tell what to say of myself. Perhaps I am Phillip Melanchthon’s forerunner. I am preparing the way for him like Elias in spirit and power.”
- Luther perceived that the ancient and primitive Church, must on the one hand, be restored in opposition to the Papacy ...

Martin Luther

- ... by which it had so long been oppressed.
D'Aubigne's *History of Reformation*
Volume 2, page 111.
- Melancthon failed to become prominent
- Luther was a forerunner of the Restoration
- He knew the church must be **RESTORED**
and not **REFORMED**

Roger Williams

- He conceived that the apostasy of Anti-Christ hath so far corrupted all, that there can be no recovery out of that apostasy, till Christ shall send forth new apostles to plant churches anew.

Struggles and Triumphs of Religious Liberty,
pages 238-239.

Roger Williams

- On his return from England he [Roger Williams] refrained from fellowship with the church, and lived in an isolated religious condition, preaching the gospel to the Indians, as he found opportunity, but refusing to participate in the ordinances. He had embraced a singular notion, which is thus stated by one of his biographers: ...

Roger Williams

- ... “He denied that any ministry now exists which is authorized to preach the gospel to the impenitent, or to administer the ordinances.”

Baptist History, J. M. Cramp, page 461.

Charles Wesley

- Almighty God of love,
Set up the attracting sign,
And summon whom thou dost approve,
For messengers divine.

From favored Abraham's seed
The new apostles choose,
In isles and continents to spread
The soul-reviving news.

Alexander Campbell

- We argue that all Christian sects are more or less apostatized from the institutions of the Saviour: that by all of the obligations of the Christian religion, they that fear and love the Lord are bound to return to the ancient order of things, in spirit and truth.

The Christian Baptist, Volume 5, Page 402

Alexander Campbell

- ... either some new revelation, or some new development of the revelation of God must be made ... We want the old gospel back, and sustained by the ancient order of things;

Christian System, page 250.

Alexander Campbell

- We have to pattern after the first church as well as we can. But we can never equal it. With all our efforts, the great disparity will ever remain. And could the Apostles and primitive Christians be here, they would doubtless weep at beholding it.

Millenial Harbinger, Volume 5, Page 40.

Doctor William Smith

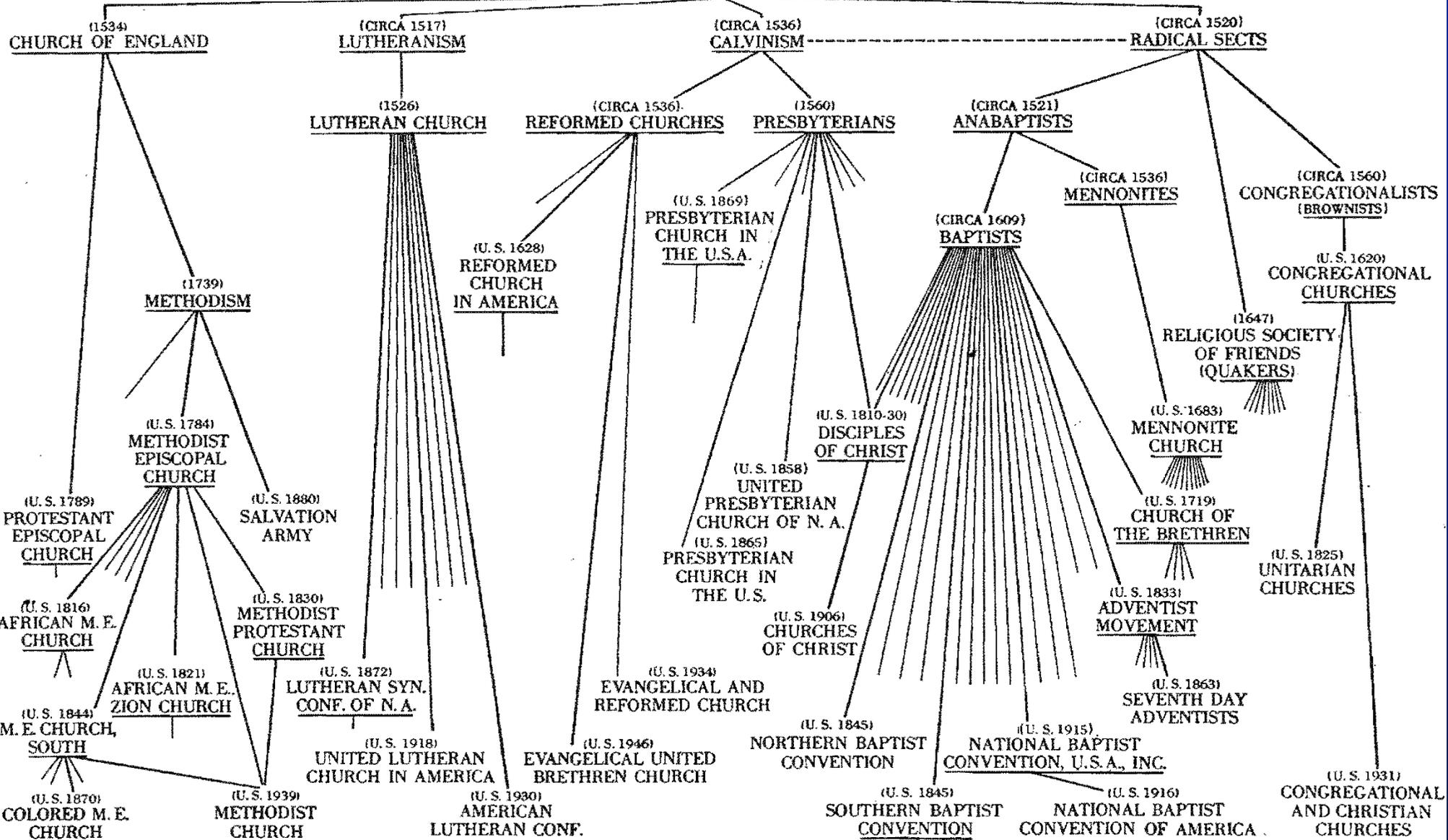
- “We must not expect to see the church of Holy Scripture actually existing in its perfection on earth. It is not to be found, thus perfect, either in the collected fragments of Christendom, or still less in any one of these fragments; though it is possible that one of those fragments more than another ...

Doctor William Smith

- ... may approach the scriptural or apostolic ideal.

Classical Examiner of University of
London Bible Dictionary, page 163.

CATHOLIC CHRISTENDOM



John 17:21

- Unity in doctrine
 - A result of adherence to scriptural doctrines, teachings, and commandments.

Alexander Campbell

- The primitive gospel, in its effulgence and power, is yet to shine out in its original splendor to regenerate the world.

History of the Disciples in the Western Reserve by A.S. Hayden, page 37.

John Wesley

- What could God have done which He hath not done, to convince you that the day is coming, that the time is at hand, when He will fulfill His glorious promises; when He will arise and maintain His own cause, and to set up His Kingdom over all the earth?

Wesley's Sermons, Volume 2, page 98

Isaiah 11:11-12

- Terrible religious conditions
 - Result of apostasy
 - Lord must set His hand a second time
- Topic of the next lecture
 - The Restoration

Isaiah 60:2

- Long before human wisdom saw the need for restoration, God promised it through the prophet, even as he had revealed the coming of the apostasy.



- I Stand At The Door
 - Revelation 3:20
- Apostasy resulted from people leaving Christ out of their lives
- The whole world suffers
- Spiritual darkness results
- Make room in your life for Christ
- Open your heart to Him