

Community Church Huddersfield
Roots of Restoration Notes

Session 1 – Restoration: God’s Ultimate Purpose

1. The word and concept ‘restoration’ has been very important throughout our history as a church and an apostolic family of churches and ministries

2. What do people mean when they talk of Restoration?

- a. Often they are just referring to the restoration of church to the New Testament pattern
- b. There are examples of this throughout history of the church, known as primitivism.
- c. This is important (God *is* restoring his church) but we do not want to be just another denomination

God is not after restorationist churches; he is restoring his Church
(Bryn Jones, The Radical Church, p.7)

- d. And the full meaning of restoration is more than just this!

3. How does Bible use the word restoration?

*Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and **will restore all things**. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished.*

(Matt.17:11)

- a. An Elijah-like prophetic community to prepare for the Lord’s coming
 - i. Note the ‘will come’/’has come’ dynamic
 - ii. *The church* – the Elijah community – *is the agent of restoration*

*He must remain in heaven until the time comes for **God to restore everything**, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.*

(Acts 3:21)

- b. Focused on the return of Jesus
 - i. *God is the agent of restoration*
 - ii. Spoken of by prophets over generations
It is the fulfilment of a promise. It is a process coming to completion – a consummation.

- c. Note the importance of 'all things'
 - i. It is not just about the Church; it is about the whole of the created order!

4. We are concerned not just with the church but with the world or 'all things'

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

(Isaiah 49:6)

- a. It is too small a thing for us to restore the church only
- b. We are bringing salvation (in all its meaning) to the ends of the earth
- c. The church is the means to the end, not the end in itself!

*'It is a mistake to charge true "restorers" with being historical primitivists. We do not seek to return to an **original condition**: rather, we seek to advance to the fullness of God's **original intention**.'*

(Bryn Jones, pp.14-15)

5. And so we can see that Restoration is about the fulfilling of God's ultimate purpose!

- a. What is that purpose?

Eph.1:10 NLT

- b. Note that it is centred on Christ (see **Col.1:16** & John 3:35)

"The grand design of history is to bring God's Son into the possession of his inheritance."

(Arthur Wallis, *Restoration*, March-April 1985, p.16)

- c. We are called to be joint heirs with him!
- d. Note also the importance of
 - i. Community - 'all things together'
 - ii. Authority - 'under one head'
 - iii. These are two central principles we will return to in other sessions

6. Restoration is about getting back on track – it is recovery for advance

- a. To advance rightly to a destination, we must get back on the right direction; having done that we must continue to move forward.
- b. To understand God's original intention, we must go back to the beginning
 - i. We need to recover what has been lost in order to move on to original destination (so the restored church is important)
 - ii. This series is about the areas of truth that God has been restoring and re-establishing in his people (over many years) in order for us to go on to the fullness of God's purpose!
- c. Genesis 1 shows that it was to fill the earth with a people who are like him
 - i. The creation mandate

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.

(Gen.1:27-28)

- d. This could only happen through Jesus, the God-man

7. This is what we mean by the earth being filled with God's glory!

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

(Hab.2:14)

- a. We are talking about nothing less than the total transformation and restoration of this world and of 'all things.'
- b. An ultimate destiny (Acts 3:21) that begins now (Matt.17:11)

Restoration is not a last-minute interventionist act that will conclude the age; it is a progressive process throughout time.'

(Bryn Jones, p.17)

- c. Starts in personal life, homes, church, workplace, streets, towns, cities, nations, all the earth

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

(Isaiah 58:12)

8. A commitment to restoration requires a faith in the overcoming triumph of the gospel and the Church – an eschatology of victory!

- a. We are not waiting for Jesus to rescue us
- b. He won the victory on the cross
 - i. We work it out – the church in the power of the Spirit with the gospel of the Kingdom
- c. Even while many things in world get worse, in the darkest hour the light will shine brightest!
 - i. Jesus' Second coming brings to completion a process that has begun.
 - ii. We start the process now – learning to reign in life and be overcomers; influencing and impacting the world so that it is progressively transformed.

9. At the heart of the restoration is a recognition that:

- a. Things as they are now are not as they once were
- b. Things as they are now are not as God intends them to be
- c. Things as they are now are not how they one day will be
- d. We are called to be joined with Christ in changing things!

10. This is the purpose that everything else we do must fit into; and we are all called to serve God's purpose in our generation

"For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers....."

(Acts 13:36)

- a. We must keep the main things – God's ultimate purpose – as the main thing.
- b. We are continuing in a line of our forefathers, a line of faith, as God's purpose has been unfolding through all generations
- c. We are working towards God's ultimate victory at the return of Christ

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