

*O Come,  
O Come,  
Emmanuel*



## O Come Immanuel

*“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet saying, ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, ‘God with us.’”*  
*Matthew 1:21-23*

Revival and restoration are two recurring themes that reverberate throughout the Bible. The Apostle Paul affirms that our redemption was a part of God’s plan before the foundation of the world, “...just as He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...” (Ephesians 1:4). The great mystery finally revealed in

the preaching of the gospel is bound up in Immanuel, God with us. As the Hebrew writer reveals to us, “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Hebrews 1:14-15). There can be no real revival and restoration without Immanuel.

There is a Latin-Plainsong entitled “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” The words of the song are:

“O come, O come, Emmanuel./And ransom captive Israel/ That mourns in lonely exile here/ Until the Son of God appear.”



Volume 31 - Number 6 - Nov/Dec 2012  
BC is published every other month. Send all inquiries, address changes and subscriptions to the editor: Scott Gage, PO Box 3425, Fayetteville, AR 72702-3425 Voice & Fax 479-521-6809 Email: Lsgage129@cs.com

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## Real And True Faith

All I ask is that we apply the same standards of faithfulness to our church activities that we expect in other areas of life.

If our car starts one out of three times, do you consider it to be faithful?

If the paperboy skips throwing the Monday and Thursday editions of the paper in our yard, are they missed?

If you fail to come to work two or three times each month, does your boss call you faithful?

If your refrigerator quits for a day now and then, do you excuse it and say, "Oh, well, it works most of the time?"

If your water heater greets you with cold water once in a while, would you notice, and do you call it faithful?

If you miss a couple of mortgage payments a year, does the loan company say, "Oh well, 10 out of 12 isn't really too bad"?

If you fail to worship God in the assemblies of His Church one or two Sundays, would you be called faithful?

If we expect faithfulness from other people and things, does not God expect the same -- if not more-- from us?

--Author Unknown--

Sepulveda Bulletin 8/5/12

1536 A.D.	Mennonites	Christ (Romans 16:16); House of God (1 Timothy 3:15). And most churches today have a degree of Calvinism hiding behind these nontraditional titles.
1534 A.D.	Church of England; 1739 Methodism (various associations)	
1536 A.D.	Calvinism	I won't go into more, but all in all this was an excellent video and I wish I had a hundred copies to give to friends and family. And some of the more important topics which Mr. Shank discussed I am not touching at all, ie: How Do You Obey A Historical Event? Read Carefully and you will learn:
1560 A.D.	Presbyterian	
1830 A.D.	Disciples of Christ	
1906 A.D.	Christian Church	

Michael Shank said that there is an estimated 33,000 denominations in the world today. I find that hard to believe, but maybe so.

Denomination (Am. Heritage Dict.) a large group of religious congregations united under a common faith and name and organized under a single administrative and legal hierarchy. Synonyms: Particular Persuasion; Sect, Division, Creed or Particular Faith.

Many "churches" today do not use what we normally think of as traditional titles. Creativity of terms seems to be the watchword, today, instead of using biblically grounded descriptions; ie: Church of

(2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 6:1-5).

All of this points to the need for getting back to New Testament Christianity, divesting ourselves of man-made traditions and practices, and simply being Christians as we find in the New Testament, something which we have taught and encouraged in the churches of Christ all along.

...David Kelley  
Arlington, TX  
*Almost Daily, 8/13/2010*

This song echoes the longing of God's people at various periods in their history. When they were in heavy bondage in Egypt their cry came up to God and he sent Moses to deliver them. Later when they were in exile in Babylon Nehemiah and Ezra led the people back to Jerusalem and back to the word of God.

But these were not to be the last times that God's people would need reviving and restoration. The former episodes were but shadows of a yet greater and wider restoration. Immanuel came to rescue Spiritual Israel. He came to break down the middle wall of partition that had separated Jew and Gentile. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:17-22:

And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the

chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

The Gentile (those afar off) and the Jew (those who are near) are now reconciled to God in one body, the church of Jesus Christ. However, even the church has had its upheavals over the centuries. During the time of the Judges the recurring history of Israel was one of departure from God's Word and then revival and restoration. The last verse of Judges (21:25) is instructive to us: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." When men follow their own hearts and minds they always depart from God. During this time in Israel's history various judges arose to lead a revival.

Departures from God's Word are not anything new. Paul admonished the Ephesian Elders:

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God

which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. Acts 20:28-32

Toward the end of his life Paul writes to the young evangelist Timothy:

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but ac-

ording to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:1-5

The times that Paul refers to in both of these passages have come and gone several times since these words were penned. Much like Israel during the time of the Judges, God's people have often departed from the truth and wandered after their own hearts. And from time to time God raises up men who once again call for a return to the simplicity of the word of God. We continue to witness departures from the word of God, and though they are few and may be in the minority, we still hear the call of preachers encouraging us to return to the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

O come Immanuel, and restore your people. Revive us yet again!

...lsg

course the vast majority of folks simply described as Members, Philippians 2:1-5; Ephesians 5:30.)

Therefore, Michael Shank spoke of the, "Roman Catholic Denomination," dated from 325 A.D. and featured it this way on his chart. This would mean that Constantine and others of that period were Roman Catholics. Some at California Lane took issue with this and said that the Roman Catholic Church should be dated from 606 A.D. when Boniface III was the first officially recognized "Pope (pappy)" of the Roman Catholic Church. The Jule Miller Cottage Studies recognizes the 606 A.D. date for the beginning of the Roman Catholic Church.

Whatever the case may be many major man-made departures soon developed:

394 A.D. Latin Mass

593 A.D. Purgatory Doctrine

606 A.D. First Official Pope – "God on Earth"

1000 A.D. Transubstantiation Doctrine

1015 A.D. Celibacy of Priests Mandate

1054 A.D. The "Catholic" Schism...leading to the development of The Greek Orthodox Church

1192 A.D. Indulgences

1215 A.D. Auricular Confessions "Confessional Booths"

1311 A.D. Sprinkling Replaced Immersion for Baptism

1870 A.D. Pope Declared Infallible

In comparing the "List of Departures" from the video, to the Jule Miller Cottage Studies, Jule Miller also adds these:

Holy Water

Extreme Unction

Changes in Singing (Mechanical Instruments added)

Also Note:

1521 A.D. Anti-Baptists;

1609 Baptist Church (various associations)

1526 A.D. Martin Luther (planting the seeds for the Protestant Reformation)

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## Why Are There So Many Churches?

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In watching the video, “Why Are There So Many Churches?” (last Wednesday) a few questions were raised. So let’s spend a little time on this!

Michael Shank, “The official beginning of the Lord’s Church is universally recognized with (Acts 2:47).”

Two important things:

(1). God Adds the Saved to the Church

(2). Jesus Paid for it with His Blood

There is One Church: (Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:4)

First Departure from the truth: (1 Corinthians 1:10-13) some claimed to be “of Paul, Apollos, Cephas, Christ.” A party, personality spirit, developing in the local church causing division! Paul condemned it.

Further departures from the truth predicted: (Acts 20:29-30 other passages)

Recorded History shows ‘splinter groups’ as Michael Shank referred to them:

Gnostics – 125 A.D.

Montanists – 156 A.D.

Manicheans – 244 A.D.

Novations – 251 A.D.

Constantine issued the, Edict of Milan 313 A.D., ending the public persecution of Christians.

Constantine then desired the influence of Christianity and to harness the growing strength of the church for Rome. So The Council of Nicea, was called in 325 A.D. where a pattern for church oversight was developed quite similar to the government of Rome. Michael Shank spoke of this as, “The first officially recognized departure from the N. T. pattern concerning church oversight.”

(New Testament congregational oversight was limited to local Elders (aka Pastors, Shepherds, Bishops) and Deacons. These men along with their wives were selected from among the congregation following the qualifications laid down in 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1; 1 Peter 5; Philippian 1. New Testament Churches also consisted of Evangelists (aka Preachers, Ministers, Eph. 4; 1 Timothy 4; 2 Timothy 4), and of

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## Restoration: A Treasure in Earthen Vessels

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God intended that man should obey Him. Man's history has been one of disobedience, with only a few exceptions. The work of Noah was an effort to bring man back to God's way but it was largely a failure and man was destroyed.

God gave Israel a law at Sinai. Moses had not come down from the mountain with the two tables of stone until there was rebellion against the law of God. Time after time God sent prophets to warn Israel of the fruit of their disobedience, but finally the children of Israel went into captivity because they did not hearken to the law or the voice of the prophets. They returned from that captivity a chastened people, but they were not fully converted to the will of God. We have but to read the books of Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi to see that the rebellion against God's law was still there.

John the Baptist came to turn the heart of the children to the fathers and the heart of the fathers to the children, lest the Lord should come and smite the earth with a curse. It is said that John only had one sermon. It was that men should repent. His preaching was not academic. He told the king that he had no right to

be living with his brother Philip's wife. He was killed for his trouble.

Jesus began to preach where John left off: “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” With few exceptions the teaching of Christ to the people of His day was that though they obeyed outward forms, their heart was

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**It is said that John only had one sermon. It was that men should repent.**

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not right before God. Jesus died according to the purpose of God that He might provide salvation for all mankind. God had required the obedience of man always. While the law of the New Testament has greater grace than anything that went before, it does not alter the fact that man must obey. Let us notice a few Scriptures that show this: “He that believeth in the son hath eternal life, but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:36), “And having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation” (Hebrews 5:9). “Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of

Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching hath both the Father and the Son” (II John 9).

God knew the heart of man and He knew that, despite the warnings, man would still rebel against God's law. We quote two Scriptures of a number that might be quoted to show how true this is. “I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts 20:29,30). God did not intend that man should go this way for Paul adds: “Wherefore watch ye, remembering that by the space of three years I ceased not to admonish every one of you night and day with tears” (Acts 20:31). Then we read: “But there arose false prophets among the people, as among you also there shall be false teachers, who shall privily bring in destructive heresies, denying even the Master that bought them and bringing upon themselves swift destruction” (II Peter 2:1). This apostasy would not be a minor thing, for Peter adds: “And many shall follow their lascivious doing, by reason of whom the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of” (II Peter 2:2). This rebellion is still

so prevalent in our day that there are those who say there is no such thing as truth.

The events of 6000 years serve to tell us that disobedience to the law of God is folly. Listen as God warns us: “And in covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you, whose sentence now from of old lingereth not and their destruction slumbereth not” (II Peter 2:3).

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However, we can be glad that despite sword and flame the voice of restoration was never entirely dead.

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Paul warned that “... the mystery of lawlessness doth already work” (II Thess. 2:7). A perusal of history shows how true these predictions were. However, we can be glad that despite sword and flame the voice of restoration was never entirely dead. The story of these attempts has been told many times and we can thank God that in the last part of the 18th Century and the beginning of the 19th Century many different people urged a return to the way of God as revealed in the New Testament. Such a movement could only

please God and confound the forces of Satan. Such slogans as “We speak where the Bible speaks and we are silent where the Bible is silent,” were echoed across the land. We would call “Bible things by Bible names.” We would be “Christians only and only Christians.” Tens of thousands responded with enthusiasm to this effort.

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However, it would seem that many were not and are not willing to have a complete return to New Testament Christianity and because of infirmities of the flesh the effort must always go on. Paul says “I have not yet attained.” Let us realize that we must go on toward the goal unto the measure of the stature of Christ. How could our goal be better stated than in the language of the Holy Spirit? “That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that ye being rooted and grounded in love, may be strong to apprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know

the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:17,18). Surely we must all say that we have not attained but let us press on.

...J. C. Bailey, 1982  
Dauphin, Manitoba  
Published in :  
The Old Paths Archive  
<http://www.oldpaths.com>

