Our Plea To The Religious World
• Since the early 1800’s the plea for a return to NT Christianity has been made in America
• The plea was made because of the creeds of men and the widespread false teaching found in the religions of men
• Our plea to the religious world is to return to the NT for all that we believe, teach and practice
1. An appeal to properly focus on God

- One’s view of God determines his view of everything else
• We must see God as holy
• His holiness shows that he cannot condone sin
• It demands that He judge sin
• We need to see Him as a God of love, grace and mercy as well as a God of wrath and judgment

• When we see Him as we should, we will understand that God is God – and we are not God
2. The restoration plea sees Christ as He is

- He is the crucified, resurrected and glorified Son of God
- Mt. 28:18
- “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
• His word as revealed in the NT is the final word in answering every religious question and settling every religious issue
According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
3. The Restoration plea accepts the New Testament
Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
2 Tim. 3:16-17 (It is complete)

• All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.
1 Pet. 4:11 (It is authoritative)

- If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
• The word of God contains:
  • Facts to be believed
  • Commands to be obeyed
  • Promises to be enjoyed
4. The restoration plea emphasizes the importance of the NT church

- Eph 4:4 “there is one body”
- It is not a denomination
- There were no denominations in the first century
- Denominations were the result of divisions
Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.
1 Cor. 1:10-13

- Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.
[12] Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?
• The church can be identified
• Builder
• Foundation
• Savior
• Terms of entrance
• Worship etc.
5. The restoration plea is a plea for all to obey the gospel as taught in NT

• Faith in Christ
• Repentance
• Confession of Christ
• Baptism
• Faithful living
Acts 2:38

• Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
Gal. 3:27

- For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
6. The restoration plea includes singing in worship

• Our singing is without the use of mechanical instruments of music

• We make melody in our heart
Eph. 5:19

• Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
Col. 3:16

• Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
7. The restoration plea is a plea for male leadership in the church

• NT teaches that men are to be elders, deacons and preachers
• Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.
Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve
• “Male spiritual leadership is not male superiority—both men and women have the same access to God through Jesus Christ.”
• For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.
• God has given the roles of men and women in the church
• These roles are not due to culture and the times we live in
• They are not subject to change
1 Tim. 3:2

• A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
• 1 Tim. 2 traces these roles back to creation
Conclusion

• “Our plea to the religious world is, first and foremost, for a return to the New Testament for all that we believe, teach, and practice—a plea for the restoration of New Testament Christianity.”
1 Pet. 4:11

• If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God;