Causes Of Restoration

- M.M. Davis in *How The Disciples Began And Grew* related seven significant things at work in religion that brought about the Restoration Movement
The Renaissance

• Movement of transition in Europe from medieval to modern world, especially classical arts and letters.
• Earliest Traces To 14\textsuperscript{th} Century Italy
• Within 100 years Italy brought in Greek literature
• Reached its zenith by 1\textsuperscript{st} of 16\textsuperscript{th} Century through men like Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael.
• Soon spread to Germany and England
• The students of science, philosophy and religion started looking for the sources of things.
• Two Fundamental Principles
  – The Right of Private Judgment
  – The Bible when studied would produce unity among Christians as it did in the 1\textsuperscript{st} Century
The Divided Church

• In light of Jesus’ teaching in John 17:11-23, unity was not only possible, but commanded.
• Other passages promoting unity: John 10:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 3:3; 12:12-27
• Churches in their day were far from will or disposition to do promote unity
• Such divisions as existed weakened the forces of God
  – Instead of one force for God, there were many small detachments jealously watching each other rather than the common foe
A Warring Church

• Churches were devouring one another
• Protestant Churches were physical enemies of the Rome Church
• Public displays of rhetorical hatred was spouted forth
• Physical engagements and wars often resulted
• A house divided can not stand!

Matthew 12:25,26
Beclouded Theology

• The blind were leading the blind, and both falling into the ditch! —Matt. 15:14

• The Bible was not understood as a systematic revelation, but a jumble of jewels thrown together

• Teachings from Moses and Jesus were seen as equally applicable

• Man was a machine and conversion was seen as a miracle
An Arrogant Clergy

• Most men of the clergy were ignorant, and ignorance breeds arrogance

• The Bible had been removed from access to the common man, enlarging the chasm between

• As Israel could not be restored to God without removing idolatry in the O.T., 1\textsuperscript{st} Century Christianity could not be restored without removing the modern clergy.
Human Creeds

• Human codes of conduct and “practical” application of the Biblical principles, the authority of which exceeded that of the Bible
• Creedalism ruled with the rod of iron: To be a member of a church, one had to swear loyalty to the creed of that church
• Each minister was trained in it, preached from it, and was sent to maintain its control over the masses
• The Bible was a neglected treasure
• Creeds destroyed any hopes of unity, and had to be destroyed to restore that unity
Infidelity

• The beginning of the 19th century was a period of blatant unbelief, not far from atheism
• Skepticism had taken firm grip in Europe and America
• The Revolutionary War and the French Revolution was a result
• The world was dark and getting darker
  – The move westward did not include the schoolroom or the church building
  – Unbelief was aggressive and reckless
  – The Legislature of Connecticut in 1741 declared against the work of religious evangelists
  – Thomas Paine was an idol, and his flimsy arguments against the Christ were almost universally accepted
  – Yale University had two Paine societies, with only a handful of Christians on campus, same was true with William & Mary & Transylvania in the west