

Slides:

1. Intro
2. The Apostasy (The Falling Away)
3. Head of Christ (Matt. 18:10-20)
 - a. Jesus tells who He is; Son of God; His Father is in Heaven
 - b. He was sent to save that which was lost
 - c. Prince of Peace in a world of unrest and war
 - d. He gives the parable of the 100 sheep – one lost
 - e. Promises to be with us when 2 or 3 are gathered in His name
4. The Church of Christ (Eph. 4:5-15)
 - a. Christ's Church will have 1 Lord, 1 Faith, and 1 Baptism
 - b. One God above all through all and in all
 - c. Some apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers
 - d. It is for the perfecting of the Saints
 - e. For the work of the ministry
 - f. For identifying the body of Christ
 - g. (Ask if any questions at this point to make sure they understand what was presented previously)
5. The Triumphal Entry (Matt. 21:5-17)
 - a. Christ said He would come meekly on a donkey [**Zech 9:9** – behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass]
 - b. Multitudes gathered to shout praises
 - c. Some knew Him and told others he was Jesus
 - d. Many came because of the miracles he performed
 - e. Some thought he would overthrow the Roman government [**John 6:14-15** the people would make Him a king]
 - f. Jesus went to the temple and cast out the money changers [**Jer 7:1-7** – is this house, which is called by name, become a den of robbers in your eyes?]
6. The Last Supper (Luke 22:1-20)
 - a. This is at the time of Passover
 - b. Christ prepared for the supper; His betrayal was also prepared
 - c. Christ also expressed knowledge of a betrayer; he presided over his own execution
 - d. Jesus said he would not eat or drink with them again until the Kingdom of God should come, which signified that the Kingdom did come, as Christ ate with them after His resurrection
 - i. John 17:20 – the Kingdom cometh not with observation, behold it has already come unto you
7. Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-46)
 - a. Christ entered the garden with his disciples to pray
 - b. He took three to watch over Him while He prayed
 - i. Peter and the two sons of Zebedee
 - c. He knew the coming events, but prayed that God's will be done, not his own

- d. He returned and found the disciples asleep and asked: could they not watch one hour
 - e. Christ repeated this again and yet again for this cup to pass from Him
 - f. He realized God's will and returned knowing His hour was at hand
8. Betrayal and Arrest (Matt. 26:47-56)
- a. Judas came with the multitudes carrying swords
 - b. He kissed Christ for a signal and Christ was seized
 - i. One of those with Him drew his sword and smote off the ear of one [Malchus] who came to arrest Jesus
 - c. Christ said this must be done to fulfill the scriptures
 - i. Knowest thou that I could call for 12 legions of angels to come and save me
 - d. It was not the civil authorities who arrested Jesus, but the servants of the religious leaders
 - e. The disciples forsook Him and fled
9. The Trial Before the Jewish Authorities (Mark 14:53-65)
- a. Christ was taken before the officials; they tried to find witnesses
 - b. They bore false witness against Him and no two stories were alike
 - i. There wasn't anything to convict Him with [similar to Daniel in Dan 6:4]
 - ii. Comment on the destruction of the temple and a new one built in 3 days
 - c. Christ was asked to defend Himself, but He remained silent until asked if He was the Christ [Isaiah 53:7 – He was oppressed...yet He opened not His mouth]
 - d. He said, "I Am, and ye shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power"
 - e. He said, "Ye shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of Heaven"
 - f. The people responded that Christ spoke blasphemy and according to their laws, was punishable by death
10. Jesus Before the Mob (Mark 15:1-15)
- a. Christ was delivered to Pilate who asked if He was the King of the Jews
 - b. Christ answered: "If thou sayest it," and then remained silent
 - c. Under Jewish law, blasphemy was punishable by death; but the Roman Governor had to pronounce the sentence
 - d. After thorough questioning, Pilate wanted to pardon Jesus
 - e. When Pilate asked the mob what to do with Christ, they shouted "Crucify Him"
 - f. Pilate said, "What evil hath He done?" but they wanted crucifixion
11. Jesus Scourged Before Pilate (Mark 15:15-16)
- a. Pilate was unable to change the minds of the people
 - b. Pilate washed his hands of the whole affair and allowed Him to be crucified
 - c. He sent Christ to be scourged before him (Scourge is a great whip; thus Christ was lashed)
 - d. When finished, the soldiers took Christ
 - e. He was taken to a great hall to be mocked and prepared for crucifixion
12. Jesus, King of the Jews (Mark 15:17-20)
- a. They dressed Christ in purple for mocking
 - b. Christ then had a crown of 1½ inch thorns put on His head
 - c. They began to salute and praise Him, mocking the King
 - d. They shouted, "Hail, King of the Jews"

- e. They then smote at Him and spit on Him
- f. When they were through, the purple garment was removed and He was prepared

13. The Journey to Golgotha (Luke 23:26-32)

- a. After whippings and other physical abuse, the weight of the cross was more than He could bear; after He collapsed under it
- b. Simon, a Cyrenian, was compelled to bear the cross for Christ
- c. Many followed and wept for Christ
- d. Christ said, "Weep for yourselves and your children"
- e. Jesus prophesied of the scattering of Israel and the desolation of the Gentiles
- f. Upon reaching Calvary, a crucifixion was prepared

14. Jesus on the Cross (Luke 23:33:34)

- a. The soldiers laid Him on the cross
- b. Nails were driven into His hands
- c. His feet were also nailed to the cross
- d. There were two other men on either side
- e. Jesus said, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do (meaning the soldiers)"

15. The Crucifixion (Matt. 27:37-44)

- a. Over Christ's head was this accusation; "This is the King of the Jews"
- b. Many mocked Him saying, if he was Christ, He should come down and save Himself
- c. They said He trusted God, now let God deliver Him
- d. Falsely accused; condemned and crucified by those He came to save
- e. Some had received him as their King just a few days earlier
- f. How sincere were they? How sincere are we? Will we stand for Him when our friends ridicule us? [Luke 9:26 – "For whosoever is ashamed of me...of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed"]

16. "It is Finished" (Matt. 27:45-60 and Luke 23:44-46)

- a. In the 6th hour, there was darkness; 9th hour Christ shouted, "My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" [Psalms 22:1]
- b. They waited to see if God would help, and Christ said "It is finished, thy will is done"
- c. Christ then died; the earth quaked; graves opened; people arose and showed themselves
- d. Those who watched said, "Truly this was the Son of God"
- e. The veil in temple was rent (four inches thick) – split from top to bottom
- f. Joseph, a rich disciple, and Nicodemus [John 19:38-42] asked Pilate for the body of Christ and received it
- g. He wrapped the body in clean linen; placed it in his own tomb; a huge stone was then rolled in front of the tomb

17. The Resurrection Morning (Matt. 28:1-20)

- a. On this morning the two Mary's were on their way to the tomb
- b. Early in the morning on the third day, there was a great earthquake, for the angels of the Lord moved the stone
- c. When the Mary's arrived, the angels told them to tell the disciples that He had risen as He said that He would
- d. They obeyed and the disciples went to Galilee

- e. Christ was there and they fell down and worshipped Him; some still doubted
- f. Luke 24:9-35; Jesus walked with two men on the road to Emmaus

18. The Unbelief of Thomas (John 20:19-29)

- a. Christ went among the disciples after the resurrection
- b. He said, "Peace be with you," and explained the work that they were entrusted with
- c. Thomas was not with them and did not believe them
- d. He said unless he saw he could not believe, so Christ went to him
- e. Thomas saw and said, "God, my Lord;" Christ responded, "You believe because you have seen, but blessed are those who have not seen but believe" (seeing is not believing, but believing is seeing)

19. The Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-20)

- a. Christ declared, "all power is given unto me in Heaven and Earth"
- b. The words of Christ are recorded here in Matthew 28:17-19

20. Scripture (Matt. 28:17-19)

- a. Read scripture

21. Jesus Ascendeth to Heaven (Acts 1:7-12)

- a. Christ was seen of them 40 days and taught things pertaining to the Kingdom of God
- b. Who were gathered on the Mt. Olivet, or the Mt. of Olives; which was a days journey from Jerusalem
- c. When he finished, He was taken up and a cloud received Him
- d. As they watched Christ ascend, two men in white appeared and said:
- e. "Men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing at Heaven"
- f. This Christ will return, just as He left

22. Pentecost (Acts 2:1-6 and Acts 1:4-5)

- a. The Day of Pentecost; final evidence of the divinity of Christ
- b. A cloven tongue as of fire appeared; it sat on each of them
- c. They were filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in other tongues
- d. Dwelling at Jerusalem were devout Jews; from every nation under Heaven
- e. Every man was confounded because he heard them speak in his own language [17 different languages]
- f. With this conviction, they went forth to preach mightily

23. Christian Devotion (Acts 2:41-47)

- a. Those who received the word were pricked in their heart and were baptized
- b. They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine – the doctrine of Christ
- c. Fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers were done
- d. They sold their possessions and gave to the needy
- e. They continued daily with a gladness of heart, and a singleness of heart praising God and having favor with all people

24. Distribution to Every Man (Acts 4:32-35)

- a. Those that believed were of one heart and of one soul, neither was anything their own

- b. Neither were there any among them that lacked; As many as possessed – sold
- c. They brought the prices of the things that were sold; And laid them down at the apostles feet
- d. Distribution was made unto every man, according to his needs

25. Scripture – “Therefore, night shall be unto you... (Micah 3:6-7)

- a. Had the fine spirit continued among the disciples, all would have been well
- b. And the Kingdom of God would have become a reality on earth
- c. However, a dark day was ahead for the church
- d. Micah, the prophet, foretold of its coming
- e. And told that it would be as spiritual darkness or night

26. Scripture – “Behold, the days come...” (Amos 8:11-12) [Deut 32:2 – doctrine as the rain]

- a. Point out that this same period was described by Amos as a spiritual famine

27. Scripture – “For the time will come...” (II Tim. 4:3-4)

- a. This and the next two slides show that Paul, too foresaw this period of spiritual darkness or famine

28. Scripture – “That ye be not soon shaken...” (II Thess. 2:2-3)

- a. Point out that Paul told the Thessalonians that the second coming of Christ would be preceded by a falling away, or in other words, an apostasy

29. Scripture – “For I know this...” (Acts 20:29-31)

- a. Stress that his falling away would come from within
- b. Men would arise deliberately seeking to deceive
- c. The urgency of this warning is pointed out by the fact that Paul cautioned them for “three years...night and day with tears.”
- d. 2 Peter 2:1-3 – Peter also foretold of false prophets and teachers already among them which would bring in heresies even denying the Lord that bought them.

30. The Hirelings Flee (John 10:12-14)

- a. The hirelings do not own the sheep, they are hired to watch them for a wage
- b. Their interests in the sheep do not arise out of genuine love
- c. The time came when the shepherds in the church likewise lost their love for the sheep
- d. He is closest at the time of danger
- e. He is a good shepherd who loves His sheep, for they are His
- f. **[2 Thessalonians 3:6-10 – Neither did we eat any man’s bread for naught; but wrought with labor and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you...to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us]**

31. The Good Shepherd Gives His Life (John 10:11-15)

- a. Christ states that He is a good shepherd
- b. A good shepherd would give his life for his sheep
- c. We know Christ is a good shepherd for the way He leads us
- d. We also know Christ has been a good shepherd for the way He died for us
- e. The true love of the shepherd and the minister is this:
 - i. That He lays down His life for His sheep

ii. Acts 20:28 – “...the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers...”

32. What Became of the Church?

- a. What could be the end of the church when the ministers are not genuinely interested in the people?
- b. It must surely suffer and eventually die, or be scattered and that seems to be exactly what happened [Jer 23:1-2 – “Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! Saith the Lord.” Jer 50:6 – “...their shepherds have caused them to go astray...” Isa 56:10-12 – “His watchmen are blind, ignorant, dumb dogs that cannot bark loving to slumber...they are shepherds that cannot understand; they all look to their own way, everyone for his gain...”]

33. Scripture – “Marvel that ye are so soon removed...” (Gal. 1:6-8)

- a. No changes or false teachings could be permitted, yet these came into the church through the years. Some of these changes will be mentioned in the next ten or so slides

34. Text – “We seldom hear of them...” (John Wesley 1703-1791)

- a. Notice that John Wesley considered that the spiritual famine had set in by the third century
- b. John Wesley founded the Methodist Church

35. Text – “this is a miserable mistake...”

- a. (Continuation of previous slide) Here are some examples of the corruption of the clergy whereby they were no longer worthy to receive of the Spirit of Christ
- b. Without the Spirit, there was only a dead form left; the church was without life

36. The Baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:13-17)

- a. Jesus left Galilee and went to Judea to be baptized by John
- b. John said, “Why?” – he felt he needed baptism by Christ
- c. John said, “We all need to be baptized, even I must fulfill all righteousness”
- d. Jesus, when baptized, went straight away up out of the water
- e. The Heavens opened unto Him and the Spirit came to Him
- f. A voice said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”
- g. The apostasy has advanced so far today that baptism is not exclusively by immersion
- h. But often by sprinkling or pouring and in many denominations, is not even considered necessary to salvation (Mark 16:15 He that is baptized shall be saved...)

37. Jesus Blessing Little Children (Luke 18:15-16)

- a. They brought infants to Christ so He could touch them
- b. When the disciples saw, they rebuked them because of what Christ said in Matthew 18:10-14
- c. Christ called them back
- d. He said, “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God.”
- e. Baptism of infants, which had no scriptural authority, is another evidence of apostasy
- f. John Calvin, “There are babies a span long in hell.” [Absolutely unscriptural]

38. The Healing of the Woman (Mark 5:25-29)

- a. Woman had been sick for many years; she had been to many doctors but none could help her; she grew continually worse
- b. When she heard of Christ, she fought a crowd to touch His robe [this could be a shadow of the church]
- c. As faith in the power of Christ was lost, men began to look to Mary, as the Mother of God, for healing
- d. While today there is seemingly a return in belief in divine healing many still deny its possibility

39. The Last Supper (Luke 22:8-20)

- a. Christ sat with the disciples at the Passover
- b. Christ said He wished to be with them once more
- c. Christ said He would eat no more until the Kingdom of God was come, He ate after His resurrection [Luke 24:29 and 40-42 and John 21:12-13]
- d. Jesus intended that the bread and wine should be considered emblems
- e. Of his broken body and spilled blood, but the time came and now is when these are considered by many the actual body and blood of Jesus
- f. Jesus' disciples rededicated themselves to Him and His service
- g. All followers were (and are) to do this frequently
 - i. always in remembrance of Him and their pledge at Baptism
- h. Only members shared in renewing of the covenant (precedent for today)
 - i. Sacrament prepared (not according to Passover rituals) **IV clarifies this scripture in Matt**
 - 1. Catholics Sacrament – Transubstantiation (Eat actual flesh) [READ John 6:60-63]
 - 2. Lutheran Sacrament – Consubstantiation (Eat of His flesh spiritually)
 - 3. Protestant Sacrament – Remembrance of Christ
 - 4. Restoration Sacrament – Remembrance of our Covenant with Christ

40. The Calling of Four Fisherman (Luke 5:1-11)

- a. Christ said, "Fear not, from now on thou shalt catch men"
- b. (Tell in a few words the scriptural basis for priesthood authority)
- c. (Emphasizing the necessity of being called of God as was Aaron)
- d. (Note that Aaron's call was initiated through Moses and later confirmed to Aaron)
- e. (This contrasts with the practices in most denominations today)
- f. (Wherein call to ministry origination with a man himself – through authorized priesthood)

41. The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-31)

- a. Christ took Peter, James, and John unto a mountain to pray
- b. As He prayed, He changed, and His clothes were white and glistened
- c. And behold, there talked with Him two more men, Moses and Elias
- d. They appeared in glory and told Christ what to accomplish in Jerusalem
- e. Peter, James, and John were sleeping, but when they awoke, they saw the two men standing with Christ
- f. Few Christians doubt this vision of Peter, James, and John
- g. Yet through the years there has been a growing disbelief in visions

42. The Angel and the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-14)

- a. Shepherds were watching flocks by night
- b. Angels came and told them Christ was born;

- c. A Savior King – in the city of David
- d. The angel said the babe could be found in a manger
- e. Suddenly a multitude of the Heavenly Host praised God and said,
- f. “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, Good Will to men.”
- g. If anyone today claimed to see angels, he would be doubted or even ridiculed
- h. All of these are very definite signs of the apostasy that took place, often so slowly that it was not even noticed
- i. It is very plain that there has been a definite departure from the teachings and doctrine of Christ
- j. This constitutes an apostasy – a falling away

43. The Unbelief of Thomas (John 20:24-29)

- a. Today even in high religious circles, there are strong doubts regarding the literal resurrection of Jesus Christ

44. Script – Johann Lorenz von Mosheim (1693-1755) German Lutheran church historian

- a. Mosheim quote: “The Christian church was scarcely formed when...”
- b. Some took it upon themselves to make changes in doctrine and worship to suit their own preferences.

45. Script – Mosheim quote: “There is no institution so pure...”

- a. Indeed, we should find doctrinal changes offensive.
- b. Otherwise, we stand in opposition to Jesus Christ.

46. Text – “During this (seventh) century...”

- a. It was so obvious that even the historians noticed the falling away,
- b. And this one placed it as “complete” by the seventh century

47. Evidences of the Apostasy

- a. The following facts may be helpful to you, for they show how the apostasy took place. They are given as background information for you and should be used only when there are specific questions – and then with great discretion
 - i. Read the following list on the next **three slides**

50. Martin Luther (1483-1546)

- a. He was so convinced of its apostasy and disturbed by it, that as the risk of his life, he made public protest. [1517 Luther’s 95 Thesis was published, 1521 he was excommunicated]
- b. He founded the Lutheran Church
- c. Luther believed that salvation was not through works but by the grace of God
- d. He believed that all baptized Christians were priesthood and was against sacerdotalism (forgiveness of sins required a priest).
- e. Thesis 86 questioned why the Pope built the basilica of St. Peter using money from the poor.
- f. “Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong, but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world. We will commit sins while we are here, for this life is not a place where justice resides.”

51. Pictures of Reformers”
- These men all did a great work in preparing the religious world for the Restoration Movement. (The dates given are when the church they founded came into existence or, in the case of Newton and Robinson, dates when they made statements regarding the apostasy.)
 - Having recognized many of the changes away from the doctrines of Christ, they sought to reform the church from within, but they believed that **reform** was not what was needed—that the church would have to be **restored** by the Lord instead.
52. Text – “Of Roger Williams it is said...” (1603-1683) Started the first Baptist church in America
- Roger Williams was one of the founders of the Baptist Church in America
 - He, too, recognized that there had been an apostasy
 - He further believed that this apostasy could not be corrected unless Christ sent new apostles
53. Text – “On his return from England...”
- For this reason, a few months after helping to organize a church
 - Roger Williams left it and spent the rest of his life teaching the Indians
 - The Puritans criticized this as a failure to Christianize them, but Williams eventually arrived at the personal conclusion that no valid church existed. He said he could have baptized the whole country, but it would have been hypocritical and false
54. Text – “Almighty God of love...”
- John and Charles Wesley were among the early founders of the Methodist Church
 - They, too, looked forward to the restoration of new apostles by GOD!
55. Text – “We argue that all Christian sects...” (1788-1866)
- Alexander Campbell, leader of a reform effort known as the Restoration Movement
 - Also recognized that there had been an apostasy and that there was a definite need for a return to the original doctrine of Christ
56. Text – “Either some new revelation...”
- Campbell further looked forward to a restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ
57. Text – “We have to pattern after the First Church...”
- Inasmuch as we have seen the original church as organized by Jesus,
 - We can understand the truth of this statement by Campbell
 - Surely the early apostles would weep if they could see what had happened to the Christian Church
58. Script – Wm. Smith quote: “We must not expect to see the church...”
- This is yet another testimony that the New Testament Church did not exist, and that it would have to be restored.
59. The Division of Protestantism
- Life Magazine, November 10, 1947
 - (Point out that all of these churches and many more have come into existence because they protested against something that was done wrongly in their mother church)
 - Therefore, they were called “protestant” churches

- d. They tried to reform the existing church, each believing that the other had gone astray
- e. The Christian churches in our day now number into the hundreds
- f. (Point out that they teach opposing and conflicting doctrines – Give some examples of the extreme conflict of doctrines)

60. Scripture – “That they all may be one...” (John 17:21)

- a. Jesus wanted unity, not division [Malachi 2:9-17 – “...And did He not make one?...”

61. Text – “The primitive gospel...”

- a. Show that this surely is what needed to happen in spite of all the churches that had been organized;
- b. For none of them were exactly as the church which Christ had established

62. Script – Robinson quote: “I am very confident the Lord hath more truth...”

- a. These words are familiar to many as those of a cherished hymn.
- b. John Robinson declared that God would show forth His glorious power to set right that which was wrong.

63. Script – Wesley quote: “The times which we have reason to believe are at hand...”

- a. John Wesley was convinced that the time of the looked for restoration was very near, if not already begun.

64. Text – “What could God have done...”

- a. Still another reformer recognized the apostasy and anticipated the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ

65. Scripture – “And it shall come to pass in that day...” (Isa. 11:11-12)

- a. Because of the terrible condition of religion, the Lord would set his hand the second time to restore things
- b. (Mention that this will be the topic of conversation in our next lecture)

66. Scripture – “For behold, the darkness...” (Isa. 60:2)

- a. 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

67. Behold, I Stand At the Door (Revelation 3:20)

- a. Emphasize that apostasy is the result of people leaving Christ out of their lives
- b. When this is done on a large scale, the whole world suffers
- c. When you and I leave Christ out of our lives, we suffer as well as those around us
- d. We are in spiritual darkness and our lives are not as enjoyable as they could be if Christ were with us
- e. Make a direct personal appeal here fore these people to make room in their lives for Him, and to open the door to their hearts