

## WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT... **RESTORATION**

Jesus must remain in heaven until the restoration of all things (Acts 3:21), which includes **a restored church**. It will be a church that has made herself ready as a bride prepares for her bridegroom. There are two aspects to Restoration:

**1. Recovering what is lost.** In its secular use the word meant the repair of a road, the restoring of property to its owner, or recovery of a former condition. **Restoration means returning things to their original order.**

**2. Compensation.** The Bible contains the principle of compensatory restitution (Exodus 22:4,7,9; Numbers 5:5-7). Restoration involved compensation in addition to restitution. Restoration is not only recovering what has been lost but also includes compensation; **adding what was not there in the first place.** Restoration is not going backwards to return the church to some ideal original condition that is supposed to have existed in the past. It is moving on to the fullness of God's original intention for the earth and for humanity created in his image.

The Bible reveals that the early church was riddled with division and legalism; and was affected by the empty philosophies of the day. Nevertheless, in the New Testament are eternal moral and spiritual principles that are the foundations of the church. It is these elements that we recover in advancing the church to its fullness. **Restoration involves recovering what has been lost, but then going on to the place that the church has never yet been.** This advancement will culminate in the glorious return of Jesus Christ himself.