

APOSTASY HAS ALWAYS FOLLOWED THE SAME ROAD THROUGHOUT HISTORY

One does not have to be a prophet to know where "liberal" churches of Christ are headed. All you need to do is read the past history of digression, then check the steps of departure they have already made and you can, from past history, easily predict the steps they will take in the future.

It all began with churches of Christ making small monthly donations from their common treasuries to human organizations known as "orphan homes", then other human organizations began to want their "hands" down in the treasuries of the churches. At first the brethren were not going to let them in. The colleges operated by the brethren wanted in, back in the forties, but they were fought off. Another effort was made in the sixties, and again they were stood off to a degree, but in the seventies they made their bid again and this time they have made it! Why did they make it this time? Because these digressive people have lost concern for Bible authority for what they practice. This long fight to hold on to some human organization to do the work of the church has, in time, opened the door for all kinds of human organizations! These people will not stop here -- this is only the beginning until they reach the full status of a denomination among denominations! This has been the history of departures from the beginning -- they all gradually develop their organizations until they finally form a full-grown denominational hierarchy. This has been the case with the Disciples of Christ (Christian church). Just in the last few years they have been reconstructing their denominational hierarchy that would have complete control over their preachers and the churches.

One of the phases that departures go through is the building of fine, expensive meeting houses. These buildings help to satisfy the pride and vainglory of the preachers and worldly-minded members. Brother David Lipscomb wrote an article in the Gospel Advocate, Jan. 28, 1892, expressing his views of this phase of digression as it was then going on in the Christian church. He says, "Once the disciples in Nashville built a fine house, when they ought to have built a half dozen modest ones, it was the occasion of trouble, and was burned up. I was in the pulpit at Philadelphia church, in Warren county, with brother Nex Murphy, when I heard of it. I publicly expressed my joy at the result. I still think it was a blessing from God." He goes on to say, "When I hear of a church setting out to build a fine house, I give that church up. Its usefulness as a church of Christ is at an end." He closes this article by saying, "He (God) will not reward us for building houses to gratify our pride. Yes, brethren, I rejoice when you fail to build fine houses. I rejoice when you sell them. I rejoice when they are burned down and replaced with modest houses that comport with the church of Christ." We are now witnessing this phase of digression among liberal churches of Christ. This is nothing new under the sun, they are just on the same old road!

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