

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



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## **We've Been Down This Road Before**

--By John Waddey, Editor of Christianity: Then & Now  
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To those familiar with our brotherhood's history, the things currently transpiring are strangely familiar. In the "change movement", we are witnessing a virtual replay of the events that led to the fragmenting of our "Back-to-the-Bible Movement" in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**There were intellectuals** who had studied at the great secular universities such as Princeton, Harvard, and Yale. There, their faith had been undermined and their hearts filled with arrogant pride.

**There were the Christian Schools** founded by God-fearing Christians, but co-opted by liberal progressives who used them to mold and shape the young minds vouched-safe to them.

By causing them to question and doubt the faith of their parents and their home churches, they transformed them into missionaries of their liberal vision.

**There were the large, wealthy city congregations.** Their wealth and social standing of their members made them ashamed of the simple faith, the old-fashioned Bible preaching and unadorned worship of their predecessors. They were embarrassed at the thought of being different from their Protestant neighbors.

They were ashamed not to participate in the ecumenical activities of other churches. They were willing to conform and compromise to gain acceptance by their religious neighbors.

**There were the younger, affluent members** who had no appreciation for those who had proceeded them in the church. They viewed our forefathers as relics from a by-gone era, whose vision and message were no longer relevant.

In fact, they smiled with arrogant pity at their simple ways. They wanted excitement, entertainment and a religion that

was less demanding. They thought themselves to be more intelligent than the older members, and therefore, entitled to demand changes to the faith and worship of the church.

**There were the preachers** who played a large role in the apostasy of that day. There were those who aspired to popularity and greatness. They were willing to say and do whatever it took to have a large following. They were proud and arrogant men whose pride far exceeded their knowledge of Scripture. They scorned the faith and convictions of the pioneers. They were sure their ideas were superior.

**There were the weak, malleable men** who knew better, but from lack of courage and conviction, yielded to the demands of the worldly crowd that demanded changes.

The progressive crowd wanted organs, choirs, and performers. They wanted women leaders. They clamored for acceptance as equals with the worldly denominations. Those weak preachers, like Aaron, gave in and helped create the golden calf (**Ex. 32:1-4**).

So here we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Church is being ravaged by those same 19<sup>th</sup> century problems. Back then the results were devastating.

Satan captured eighty-five percent of our brotherhood. Those who wished to remain true to the Lord were left badly beaten, dispossessed of their Church property, and forced to start all over again.

What will the end result be in our day?