

PROBLEMS OF THE PAST

There are two passages in the New Testament which remind us of the things written of old which become an example to us and should be considered as a warning for today: (1) *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope,"* Rom. 15:4. (2) *"11 Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come,"* I Cor. 10:11. If history of olden times could be a warning for the first century Christians, it would appear that history would be a warning for us today.

Apostasy is spoken of as coming from those departed from the faith, by certain **elders** of the church: "29 I know that after my departing grievous wolves shall enter in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them," Acts 20:29-30. There came to be men of the eldership who aspired to be "**BISHOPS**" and thus making a distinction between those who were Elders, Shepherds and Pastors. These, "**BISHOPS**", ruled. There was a problem that developed among the "**BISHOPS**" as to who was the greatest. Slowly but surely, there came into existence the first "**POPE**," in 606 A.D. The sects of the world did not cause the problem; but rather, the insects, inside the church. We can learn from history and not repeat this mistake again. The **Roman Catholic Church** was the outgrowth of this error.

In the "**Restoration Movement**" there was introduced into the Lord's People such a thing as the American Christian Missionary Society, and later when they allowed this to die, they introduced the United Christian Missionary Society. These organizations were causing many in the restoration movement to raise eyebrows and question the legitimacy of such organizations separate and apart from the Lord's Church. This led to another unscriptural practice, "**INSTRUMENTS OF MUSIC**" in the worship of the Lord's people to God and this could not be tolerated. Some have said: "This was the wedge that split the Lord's Church," and rightly so. In time we have learned this produced the Christian Church. This people claim now, to be a sect, a denomination and will accept most anyone who would desire to be a part of their existence. You see what it led to? We can learn from history and not repeat this mistake again! These folks passed from being an "**INSECT**" to being a "sect" - a denomination.

During the twentieth-century there came to be "**progressive people**" who introduced the "orphan homes," "old folk homes" and with this group there arose those who believed in the doctrine of Pre-millennialism. These formed the "progressives" and introduced the **HERALD OF TRUTH** arrangement. Then came the "**SPONSORING CHURCH TYPE OF ARRANGEMENT**" not believing the all-sufficiency of the Lord's church; and thus, added arrangements typical of what had been added many years ago. This people have not yet become a denomination; but time, will demonstrate they are headed in that direction. Most of these congregations are filled with Calvinism and this doctrine is fast eating them up. They need to change their name, they are no longer the Church of Christ as is read of in the New Testament.

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