

During the past half century there have been many changes. Today most of the larger denominations are in the hands of unbelievers to a great extent. At the early part of the century it was not so. Then the great bulk of Methodist ministers were earnest Christians believing in the deity of Christ and the full dependability of the Scripture and striving to lead men to salvation. I remember well having heard some very famous speakers who in two or three cases men who had adopted liberal views and then had lost their position on the Methodist church on account of their liberal views, and become independent ministers. One or two of them were pastors of large churches in NY. They were not nearly as liberal as the average run of Modernists ministers today. In fact I heard one or two of them speak strongly defending the somewhat conservative view against the more radical tendencies that were spreading through the land.

During the years the Methodist Church had been a great instrument for evangelism. Its circuit riders had spread the gospel through the colonies (American) and been active in Christian work. Dr. Bab Jones, Sr. said on two or three occasions that formerly the great evangelists in the north were all Presbyterian and the great evangelists in the south were mostly Methodists.

The Methodist church had placed great stress on practical work and evangelism. It placed a comparatively little stress on having an educated ministry. Thus it came about that their seminaries fell easy prey to modernism as their professors sought advanced degrees under famous liberal scholars and gradually their seminaries were infiltrated. I was once talked with a man who had graduated from a conservative Methodist school (I think it was Taylor U.) and then gone to Garrett Biblical in the Chicago area. He said (if I recall correctly) that 30 men from his graduating class had gone there and all of them earnest believers in the great Scriptural doctrines and that when they graduated from Garrett(?) that all but two or three of them had become liberals.