

You turn over to ch.5:17. There your read: Then the high priests . . . . and all who were members of the party of the Sadducees were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them into the public jail." Verse 34 tells how it was a Pharisee named Gamaliel who said, Men of Israel consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Be careful lest you may be fighting against God." There is much evil into which many of the Pharisees fell, and it is very very important that we guard against that evil, But those who brought the forceful efforts to destroy Christianity were the Sadducees.

We had two messages in our Day of Prayer which I felt were very very excellent in pointing out the dangers that can come to us ~~and~~ as sincere believers in Christ as we try to follow Him. And the fact that we will often come into situations where we will have to decide whether we will be moulded into what God wants us to be or whether it will be necessary for Him to shatter us. That doesn't mean to take away our salvation, but to lay us on the shelf and not use us any more for His glory.

That's the sort of an exhortation that you ~~would~~ would give to the Pharisees. To those who claim to stand for the truth and believe the Scripture, and yet who are tempted to follow various evil impulses or desires and thus be led into a situation where they will not serve the Lord effectively. Mr. Conant has done fine work in helping people to avoid the yeast of the Pharisees. But Mr. Conant has also been very effective in his life in opposing the yeast of the Sadducees.

There were two books he wrote. One of them is called Present Day Methodism and the Bible. It is a Book in which he shows the subtle, undermining that came into the great Methodist denomination. One hundred years ago, perhaps as recently as 60 years ago, there was no greater force for evangelism ~~in~~ in the U.S.A. than the Methodist denomination. Most of the ministers were earnest Christians who were seeking to lead people to the Lord and show them how to grow in the grace of God. But in subsequent years unbelief came into the seminaries and training schools of the Methodist denomination. Unbelievers got into positions where they changed the attitude of the newly-trained ministers in that denomination.

I was talking to a young man about 40 years ago who told how he had gone to a fine Methodist college and there he said when he graduated there were 30 young men on fire for the Lord whom he had known there, and they went to a Methodist seminary in the middle west and he said there were only two of the 30 who still believed that the Bible was true after they finished at that Methodist seminary. So today the very large Methodist denomination is filled with people who were brought up finding the Methodist church a great Christian force, and now seeing their children not getting from the church anything and drifting away and they don't understand what is wrong. Occasionally they realize that the nature of the preaching is very very different in most of these churches from what it was when they were young people.

Mr. Conant was in a smaller denomination called the Methodist Protestant denomination, a denomination which about 30 years ago