

## **TO CLAIM THE VICTORY IS NOT THE SAME AS TO WIN IT**

Dr. Robert Richardson, pioneer preacher of the Restoration Movement, was a man of wisdom and perception. He once observed:

“ When weak arguments are adduced to sustain a good cause, and are refuted, it is a common error to suppose that the contrary side of the question is established. The point at issue is yet untouched. To show the inconclusiveness of an argument is not to adduce one upon the opposite side of the question”

Reading the plethora of books promoting the change agenda, one is impressed with their method of attack. Those great doctors of the law select for their targets to attack and hold up for ridicule the “weak arguments” of unskilled preachers of the past. They bashed them for their lack of knowledge of Greek or Hebrew. They brush aside the old preachers’ scripture citations or quotes from evangelical commentators. They level their quotes from skeptical, liberal theologians against them. They pronounce themselves the victors. Yet at the end of the day, they have not proven their case for their favorite causes. They have not demonstrated that God approves of instrumental music in Christian worship, women in public leadership roles in the church, or that the church of Christ is merely another denomination. They have only demonstrated their refusal to accept and respect the headship of Christ and the authority of his inspired words. Pompous posturing and pious pretending prove nothing but the pride and vanity of the spokesman.

Those old country preachers, without advanced degrees from prestigious sectarian seminaries, preached more truth, won more souls, planted more churches and defeated more champions of error than any or all of our present day agents of change put together. In fact they even founded the Christian schools the ungrateful academics now control. JHW