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Bible Studies Addressing the Change Movement
“OUR PURPOSE”
By John Waddey, Editor

To succeed in this endeavor to protect the church of Christ from the powerful forces that are working to change her into something other than a band of Christians who serve Christ, believe his Word and gladly submit to it, we need the help and support of thousands of faithful Christians in every section of the nation.

The following words set forth in a concise way what it is that we are about:

"I am trying to get all God's people everywhere to stand together as a solid phalanx against the opposing forces now seeking to destroy the church of our Lord. I know that the cause of Christ needs its full strength. I know that in unity alone strength can exist, and I think it a calamity for those who claim to believe the Bible, to reverence Jehovah, and to wear the name of Christ at all, to stand thus divided, and thereby invite the enemy to a victory over our scattered forces" (N. B. Hardeman, Tabernacle Sermons, Vol. 3, p. 125).

Seventy-five years ago the church was indeed a scattered handful following the calamitous defections of the Disciples of Christ and Christian Churches. They took with them some 85 per cent of the brotherhood, most of our schools and mission outposts, leaving our fathers a scattered remnant. In many communities only a handful stood faithful when apostasy swept through. Church buildings were often taken by those departing from the faith. They had to start over from scratch.

Even the remnant was not united in their resistance. Daniel Sommer dominated most of the northern churches. With his legalistic mind set he made war on his own brethren who would not bow to his demands. Robert H. Boll was busily spreading his premillennial speculations. Some were separating from the mainstream of the church over such matters as individual communion cups, Sunday School classes. In that hour of crisis and in that environment, our brethren desperately needed to hear and heed such a plea for unity.

Today, although we are facing serious problems, our situation is not quiet so severe as in 1928. At this point in time, not as many souls have been captured by the promoters of change as were lost to the earlier digression. But as then, those of us who reject the overtures of the promoters of change are not united in our defense of the faith once delivered (Jude 3). Our position is greatly weakened by this lack of cohesion. We too have our ultra-conservatives who are at war with all not in their small camp. We have others who refuse to cooperate and work with anyone whose thinking is not identical with theirs on every point. We have large numbers of brethren who seem unconcerned about the challenge of the change movement.

We must find a way to rally our forces to stand united in the face of departures, else we will be swept away in a torrent of militant error. We urge every brother and sister who reads these lines to lift up daily prayers for the church for which our Lord's died (Acts 20:28). We implore you to join hands with us in this endeavor. Together we can build a fire wall that will block the spread of this destructive movement. We beseech you to talk with other Christians, especially preachers and elders, sharing with them your concerns and urging them to get involved in "the defense of the gospel" (Phil 1:16). The band of patriots who defended the Alamo were brave men. They had a noble cause. They fought hard, even unto death. But they were swept away by the overwhelming numbers of Gen. Santa Anna. There is a lesson in that for us.

JHW