

5/4/74

Separation series 2 Cor. 2:11

7

100 years ago our country had great denominations, differing often in little minor points, but all of them practically standing four-square for belief in the Scripture and for belief in the deity of Christ and the necessity of the atonement and other great fundamental doctrines. The way modernism has taken over the Methodist church it is hard for us today to realize that 100 years ago Methodist evangelists were leading hundreds of people to salvation through Christ. The great Methodist missionary work of a half century ago was one of the greatest movements for the spread of the Gospel in all history. The U.S.S. to quite an extent, the great Christian work that has been done by this nation during the past century (the 19th century) was to quite an extent affected by the persecuion in Europe of the previous centuries which led people from many nations to come here to seek a place where they could get away from the persecution.

We noted that persecution is stress in one or two places in Scripture, that is, Satan's part in it. But the wiles of Satan are stressed even more. We do not want to be ignorant of his devices but we think of his wiles which have made such a change in this country. In Eph. 6 we have that great passage on the Christian warrior, on how he should stand. It does not say ~~to~~ Stand against persecution! It says, Put the whole armour of God (on) that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. . . . 2 Cor. 11:13-15 say, For such are false apostles, deceitful workers. . . . And no marvel for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of life . . ." What a change has taken place in the last 100 years but increasingly in the last 50 years in this countyr.

People talk about the delinquency of youth and of youth revolt. The youth today are no different than in any previous time. The