

PERILS OF PROGRESS

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Introduction: What is progress?? Motion is not progress; child on rocking-horse. Material, scientific, industrial advancement in U.S. - but not equal moral and spiritual progress to put on the brakes.

So it is that when individual christians or churches make any progress, they confront new and greater perils and problems.

The First Peril is that of

I. PRIDE

God.

- A. This is a giving of the glory to self instead of to God.
- B. We should be happy about the progress, yet humble.
- C. "Wanted: Humble Baptists", Bulletin Service 6-3-51.

II. PRAYERLESSNESS

- A. This results from a lack of dependence on God, and we feel we do not need to pray.
- B. Or we gain increasing confidence in the program instead of in the power from on High.
- C. This may spring from a satisfaction with present attainments.
 - 1. Paul said, "I count not myself to have apprehended
 - 2. Dissatisfaction is the first step in improvement.

III. CHRISTIAN PROGRESS INVITES FIERCE SATANIC OPPOSITION

- A. We should expect Satan's attacks
- B. We should know his devices, II Cor. 2:11, "We are not ignorant of his devices."
- C. We should have the needed Divine resources to defeat the devil.

VI. Yet, in spite of all these perils involved in progress, there are vastly greater dangers in failure to progress in Christianity.

1. Lost souls are in danger

2. The present opportunity will never be repeated.

3. If we don't advance, the Enemy certainly will.

The Confederate General Longstreet, during the battle of Gettysburg, had one of his generals come to him and report that he was unable to bring up his men to charge the enemy. "Very well," said the General, "Just

Let them remain where they are; the enemy's going to advance, and they will spare you the trouble." It often affreq. repeats this won. shorinoo veri, as soon as you come, and I don't care

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