

downgraded and denied by those who claim to be Christian leaders?

This was not just a Presbyterian problem. The Methodist churches had become invaded by this same terrible virus of unbelief. The Lutherans were faced with the same problem. The Baptists also were invaded. The Congregationalists had by this time been almost completely taken over by Satan's doctrines. The Episcopalians were in deep trouble. In fact, by this time it appeared that Satan had won another battle similar in magnitude to that which had prevailed just prior to the Sixteenth Century Reformation. Man after man, Christian leaders who should have been able to discern the times and to stand up against the inroads of Satan instead, pulled down their colors, denied the Lord who had bought them and disappeared from the battle.

May I give you a personal illustration of just what I am talking about? In World War II I joined the Army as a private. Some months later I received an appointment to Officers Candidate School, where, if I were able, I would be graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant. I had been warned about the terrible strenuousness of that school, but I shrugged it off. Soon after my arrival at the school, we were all called out to stand for our first formation and receive our welcome from the Company Commander. I shall never forget that scene. The officer spoke to us: "Men, look around you. Thirteen weeks from today, when you are graduated, the man on your right, the man on your left, the man behind you will not be here. He will be washed out!" And that actually happened to me. In that formation, the man on my right, the man on my left and the man standing behind me were not there. They had been dismissed within the first two weeks of our training period. Why were

they dismissed? Many reasons — but the basic fact is that they could not take the discipline, the rugged training, the constant attacks by the squad leaders who did everything they could think of to break us.

I have often thought how similar that was to the battle which faces the Christians today. And I have seen so many promising leaders who have turned away from the fight for one reason or another.

When the Twentieth Century Reformation began, there were not many leaders who were involved. But the principles were right, and the battle had to be fought on those principles. They have not changed — they cannot change because they come right out of the eternal Word of God. I think it highly significant that this battle began, and continues to this very moment, on the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a missionary battle.

When I, personally, look at this battle in which we are engaged, I must look at it as it primarily concerns the Presbyterians, because I am one, a Bible Presbyterian. The great leaders of that day put their very lives and futures on the lines because of their dedication to the truth. The formation of the Independent Board in 1933 immediately became the battleground for the Faith. Men of God were ordered by the very Church which ordained them to cease and desist from serving on this Board! They were guilty of a "terrible crime" — the crime of putting the Word of God before the word of man! Some of them, when the time of decision came, did as so many weak Christians have done in the past — they recanted, and bowed to the Presbyterian Mandate. But some, thank God, did not recant, and their answer was the same as the apostles of old: "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than