

**“IF YOU DON’T KNOW WHERE YOU’RE GOING
YOU MAY NOT LIKE YOUR DESTINATION”**

Jay Lockhart

Several years ago we began to hear some in the church say that unless the churches of Christ underwent radical changes we would die. Of course, Christianity is about change. The act of conversion is about change from one kind of life to another kind of life. So when Peter said, “Repeat therefore and be converted” (Acts 3:19), he was calling for change. The Christian life is about change as we grow more and more into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18). However, the changes of conversion and the Christian life were not what those who advocated of radical change in the church had in mind. They wanted to change the church from seeking to be the church of the New Testament to being a denomination in the community church movement. They called for greater love, but if one challenged or disagreed with them, he experienced their wrath. They said there was no pattern for the church in the New Testament (ignoring such passages as 2 Timothy 1:13) and set out to follow the pattern of community churches like Saddleback in California and Willow Creek in Illinois. They speak of the need to emphasize grace (but apart from accepting the New Testament as the final authority in religion), the cross of Christ (but apart from commitment to His Word) and the teachings of Jesus over the Epistles (as though all of the New Testament is not give by the authority of Christ -- see I Corinthians 14:37 -- but if they stayed away from the Epistles they would not have to deal with passages that would prevent them from doing what they wanted to do in worship and

church organization). What does the change movement want to accomplish? They (at least many of them) want the church to be denominationalized; they want to accept the pious unimmersed into fellowship; they want to worship with instruments; they want women in church leadership roles; they want to disassociate themselves from congregations that seek to restore first century Christianity; and, rather than simply going out from us and starting churches of their choice, they want to take over established congregations and drive out those who resist their changes. That's where this movement is going. In spite of pious platitudes, this movement is not the work of the shepherds of the sheep, but of wolves. It will not pass without fervent resistance. Do you know where you are going in your spiritual life? Do you know where the church to which you belong is headed? If you do not know where you are going, you may not like where you land. More importantly, we should be asking if the Lord will be pleased with our direction and destiny.