

sacraments" but this was often a sort of scapegoat concealing personal and ulterior motives.

- e. Now when times sorts all of this out, as it always does, we discover how quickly the pendulum turns. Time would show that many of the divisions were not linked with the Gospel at all and this will tend to build a super-indulgent church that will continue itself in spite of many difficulties. What comes is an avoidance culture and an unwillingness to face needed issues. The tendency then is to tolerate things to the point of inclusivism...a tendency that can only be offset with very strong actions or very shocking circumstances.

2. The Religious World of the Early Twentieth Century
(as remembered by old-timers)

Although there was a great growth of academic unbelief during this period, there was also a general good feeling due to a large number of up-pointing factors. These features tended to hide the despair of growing unbelief. Following are some factors that so conditioned the world of this time. And with them we give some notes on theological trends and issues that were alive and working in those days.

a. Optimistic characteristics:

- a keen sense of spiritual euphoria growing from the following
 - the great revivals (Moody, Chapman, etc.)
 - expanding world service interests (YMCA)
 - renewed interest and growth of world missions
 - increased church membership and growth
 - prominence of Christian ideals: the Volstead Act
 - improvements in social righteousness (!)..the Labor Laws and such moves as Chautauqua and the Lyceum.
- an accomplishment of reform in the public sector. This, of course, embodies some of the above. There seemed to be a wider, more willing acceptance of the Christian morality ideals. There were still plenty of atheists, agnostics, etc., but the world seemed to be getting better and better... and need we tell you, there were a lot of post-millennialists who were just counting the days.

b. Developing Religious Trends:

- liberal theology following the "revelations" of Schleiermacher who, more than any other, was used to turn the church against itself from a theological point of view.
- influence of socialism