

not met with truth it will produce a more corruptive effect in the testimony than can be easily imagined. Often error is treated in an offhanded manner that suggests it will go away if left to itself. Church history reveals this is not the case. Error grows rapidly when not answered and the eventual disruption will be serious. It is another instance where a little prevention is better than a lot of medicine.

Issue preoccupation

While a different type of problem than those mentioned, this is a form of one-sidedness that keeps one from giving full attention to the total work of the church. In agreement with the concepts of balance, it is important that the church find its life and witness in the Scriptures and not in a range of issues and problems that tend to supercede the scriptural message in importance. This sort of thinking greatly reduced the Donatist contribution (they became more and more of a "one-issue" society) and has generally been the death cry of any body founded to preserve one aspect of truth or issue of importance. Issue preoccupation is more easily observed in past events but needs a careful watching in every church in order that we maintain a status of those who declare "all the doctrine."

(3) Redirection of Attention

Eventually the great application of history is to rethink our purpose and cause for existence and to renew a commitment to the great Head of the Church. We become aware that if he were not building it, lesser architects like ourselves would have ruined the whole structure. While we may profit from our past and apply it to our present, it is soon seen that none of us is sufficient for the full implementation of the Great Commission or for perfecting a program that will enable us to fully perform with good behaviour in the House of God. We are returned then to the One who is the Foundation, Center, and Head of the Christian church. With humility of soul we acknowledge that at best we are unprofitable servants and are given the privilege of knowing God and his will only through the matchless grace.

To some the application of history is a frustrating affair. These readers see so much that is wrong in history and so little effort to correct it that they are discouraged by the entire process. Their problem is not unique but it is answerable. What one needs is to profit as much as possible in the study of Church History and out of its frustrations and joys to be more fully bound to the Head of the church. In him the questions are answered, in him the church is One, in him is all that is necessary for life and godliness.

Conclusion

Considering the areas of content, approach, and application of history, those who studied with Allan A. MacRae were most fortunate. He