

Speaking Perverse Things

By-and-bye, men began to force their pet doctrines into undue prominence, and from among their “own selves did men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts xx. 30, R.V.). The factions thus created by these doctrines soon began to assume more definite form, and other *names* came to the front alongside the name of Jesus. “One saith, I am of Paul; and another, I of Apollos” (I Cor. i. 12). Sectarianism, created and fostered within the hearts of the saints, appeared in outward form. Sects and parties sprang bearing the names of their founders, or of their peculiar doctrines, and thus the leaven wrought until, after centuries of divisions, secessions, and disruptions, the professing Church of Christ presents to an infidel and the scoffing world, the divided, Babel-like front of several hundreds of sects, each clamoring for the mastery and the credit of being the *true* Church. Some of these are grossly unclean, and their doctrine entirely destitute of truth. Some are more evangelical in doctrine, but miserably corrupt in practice; while others are largely composed of those who neither have themselves been converted, nor believe that any one else can be sure of being saved.

(The Tabernacle of the Wilderness, 7th. Ed., by John Ritchie, Kilmarnock, Scotland: John Ritchie, Publisher of Christian Literature, 1923, 70)