

Witnessing for Christ.

WE are to witness that God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. We are to make known to all that Jesus Christ so loved lost men as to give His life a ransom for many. The worst of sinners may receive into his heart the Spirit of God and the love of God,—may become a child of God, an heir of glorious immortality. When we look at men apart from the Gospel, how poor and paltry and insignificant they appear! One is apt to indulge the feeling, “why this ado for such creatures—such dust of the dust—such clods of the valley? Why ask me to make sacrifices for persons that are here to-day and away for ever on the morrow? What is man worth with his littleness and his vices, his blindness and folly? Ay, but it is to save the lost that Christ comes to raise the fallen—to rescue the perishing—to elevate infinitely our ideal of humanity. Our Christianity teaches us that it is worth while to save the poorest and feeblest wail that straggles through our streets, or the most hardened “tramp” that begs without a blush the bread of idleness. It teaches us that wherever the Gospel is proclaimed all are welcome to the blessings of justification, adoption, sanctification, “assurance of God’s love, joy in the Holy Ghost, peace of conscience, increase of Grace and perseverance therein to the end.” We are called to witness to the fullness and the absolute freeness of God’s grace, as revealed in the Gospel; to tell men, even the most rebellious, that we are all His offspring, and that when we become christians we are heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ.

We are called to witness for Christ by our daily conduct. Meek and gentle, loving and true, men will take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus. Truth and love and

godliness thus exemplified, become known and read by persons to whom the Bible is a sealed book, and who do not frequent the sanctuary. As the Lord Jesus made the greatest possible sacrifices to save the lost, it is essential to faithful witnessing for Him that christians should be self-sacrificing.

Our church as a whole should be ready to witness for Christ in every town and village and hamlet, from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island. He is no true Presbyterian, he is no worthy member or adherent of the Presbyterian Church, who is not daily preaching by word or deed or character, in whatever community his lot may be cast, and by whatever means may be within his reach—Jesus as the Saviour of men. The witness of a godly life, the witness of a liberal hand, the witness of true and loyal speech,—all are precious in the eyes of God and invaluable for the benefit of mankind. Some, not a few in these days,—must witness for Christ on the lonely far-off prairies, some in the depths of the forest, some by the shores of sounding seas. Others will find themselves in cities surrounded by adverse majorities by multitudes who are ignorant of the truth and are unwilling to receive it—by the fanatical victims of superstition and idolatry. Others again, are from infancy to old age the favoured dwellers in well ordered communities where all the ordinances of pure and undefiled religion are observed with reverence and enjoyed with delight. Still, in all these circumstances, in every imaginable condition, in every time and place, it is the duty and the privilege of all to witness for Christ. Show your faith and love by works. Help in every good cause. Build churches, for these are precious witnesses for Christ. Send forth missionaries. Strengthen the schemes of the church as they stand in need of your aid. Prove to all that you value the truth as it is in Jesus, by using every endeavour to preserve that truth in its purity and to proclaim it to the ends of the earth.