

how the doctrine of Christ crucified, as soon as it was proclaimed by the apostles after the ascension of Christ, and when the promise of the Father had been fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, reached the hearts of thousands on the day of Pentecost, and as carried into both Jewish and heathen communities, was effectual to overcome the most rebellious and depraved and sunk in barbarism, making them new creatures in Jesus Christ, and thus partakers of all the precious benefits which it was designed to convey to those who embraced it. The Word is still the same, as efficacious as ever, when carried by divine power into the heart. For saith the Lord by the mouth of his prophet, "As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater, so shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." The Word of Truth, as administered by his servants is noticed in another passage as identified with, and in fact constituting the grand means for, the salvation of the souls of men. "Whosoever, says the apostle, 'shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.' How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things.'"