

the Word of God is to be recognized as the supreme standard by which all conduct and character are to be tried. Study a few of its great utterances: "As my Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." "If ye love Me, ye will keep My commandments." "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth." "I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain." "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it." "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Such quotations from God's Word could be multiplied indefinitely. Indeed, this great idea of the Divine nature and purpose of Christianity pre-eminently stands out on every page of the Divine book. Take away from the Bible its great missionary idea, and not much more than the lids of the book would be left.

Our churches are fast coming to the recognition of this fact. As we hurry on to the border line of the new century a backward glance reveals some significant features of the great century behind. In invention, in commerce, in the march of civilization, the closing century has no parallel. But the most significant feature of this century is its record in missionary achievement. This feature towers above all other features as some great mountain grandly lifts its head above the tiny hills at its base. A true glance at such missionary record will put hope into the most pessimistic heart. The whole Christian world has found out that the gospel of Jesus Christ does have power to forgive sins and transform lives of ignorance, wretchedness and wickedness into lives upright, noble and blessed. These victories may be seen in Asia, Africa, the islands of the seas, in every corner of the earth where the Bible and the missionary have gone.

If the reader would behold a record of faith and courage and holy endeavor resembling that described in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, let him read of the struggles and the triumphs of the missionaries of the past century. Let him read of the Moravians living and dying in the hospitals with lepers in order to win the latter to Christ. Let him read of the heroes in Madagascar, of the dying testimony of the Samoan and Fijian missionaries, of the expiring praises of the boys of Uganda perishing in the flames—all, all, for the sake of Jesus. Let him read of the conflicts and triumphs in the New Hebrides where Dr. Paton so gloriously labored, and the same sublime record of others in Greenland and Labrador. Let him read the wonderful story of the opening of the ports of Japan by Commodore Perry, who did

not fire a gun, but who placed the Bible upon the capstan of his ship, and from it read the 100th Psalm, from which hour Japan was opened to the world, and in a few years became the first people of the Orient. Let him read of Livingston dying on his knees in mid Africa, and of the amazing results that have followed his labors. Let him read of Capt. Allen Gardner, who felt called to carry the gospel to Terra del Fuego, who was repulsed again and again by the people whom he sought to save, and who died at last in his boat—without knowing of one soul given him for his hire. In his last hours he wrote these words, which were found long afterwards: "My little boat is a very Bethel to my soul. Asleep or awake, I am happier than tongue can tell. I am starving, yet I neither hunger nor thirst. I feed on hidden manna and drink at the King's well. I am not disappointed; for I remember this: 'One soweth and another reapeth.'" Ah, what records of earth can compare with these? "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ." Ten thousand instances such as these stand out like mountains peaks, along with the many conspicuous features of the century just closing.

And is there a man among us who does not believe that the next century will thrill with far greater missionary purpose and effort than this? In face of God's Word, together with His wondrous providence, how could it be otherwise? Is it not high time that the churches should with all diligence give themselves to their main business in the world? The Dark Ages came, because the great commission of Jesus Christ was so fearfully ignored and forgotten for a thousand years. Spiritual night was both logical and inevitable, and this also made possible and easy the infidelity of Voltaire, Rousseau and Tom Paine.

Who does not believe that we are fast reaching to the end of the inconsistent, the inexcusable, the unutterably wicked heresy that has heretofore been little thought of by many churches—the heresy of indifference and idleness on the great matter of world-wide evangelization? Dr. Thompson is right in his great statement that the church that is not missionary in its spirit, must repent or wane; the pastor who is not, should reform or resign. And the matchless Broadus was right when he said: "The Baptist who stands up for believer's baptism, and for the independence of the churches and all those things which I believe in, and then isn't hearty in the work of missions—well, the fact is, he is no Baptist at all. He doesn't deserve to call himself that. Let him go to reading his New Testament over again."

The day comes on when a church not constantly and aggressively missionary, and yet purporting to be a church of Christ, shall be regarded as the most contradictory institution in the world; and the pastor having like spirit shall be regarded as the most inconsistent man of the race. God speed the coming of