

Some special effort will need to be made if victory is to crown our efforts. The ordinary services of the Lord's day and a few extra meetings, are not sufficient to bring about a sweeping victory. History proves this to be true. No great, widespread revival has ever been seen on this plan. It was not so in Ezra's day, when the people forsook their ordinary vocations and for days stood in the rain to hear the reading and expounding of their long-forgotten book of the law. It was not so when the Apostles preached, and it will not be so to-day. Where there is no church, God may promote His work without organized effort; but where there are means He will have them used. And yet, better no church in a community, at such a time, than a church that will not work. The counteracting influence of such is worse than infidelity.

The tendency, too frequently, in revivals is to make the church an end rather than a means to an end; and therefore the energy that should be used in saving souls is often used to save the church. Such churches take their eyes from the lost and fasten them on themselves, and thus fall into the pit of selfishness. "When a church ceases to be administered as a means for the evangelization of the city or community in which it is situated and becomes self-centered in its own prosperity, or makes its own establishment the chief end of its work, it ought to go down, for it has ceased to manifest the spirit of Christ."

Oh! for a revival of apostolic preaching and apostolic working, yea, of apostolic praying! Then with our splendid machinery, our educated ministry, our risen and glorified Lord, with the heathen at our doors and the lost in our homes, we might have an immediate experience of Pentecostal joy. That is what is needed by the ministry and the church and the lost world, in this year of grace, 1895.

"They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

## Some Great Preachers I Have Heard.

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### II.—ALEXANDER MACLAREN.

THIS divine may not be as generally or as popularly known as many other ministers of this generation, but, in my judgment, he is the greatest Protestant preacher now living. He is a member of the Baptist denomination, having been for many years pastor of the Oxford Street Chapel, in Manchester, England. In addition to his pulpit work, which is always of the highest grade, Dr. MacLaren has published several expository volumes which are models of clearness and power, and is a regular contributor to several religious periodicals, among which are *The Freeman*, a Baptist weekly published in London, and *The Sunday School Times*, which probably has the largest circulation of any religious paper in this country.

I first heard of Dr. MacLaren when I was a student in the seminary, my interest in him being awakened by a volume of his, entitled the "Secret of Power and other Sermons," which was loaned me by a classmate. Before I concluded the sermon I began to realize that its author was a great man, and that conviction has steadily grown upon me as I have continued to read productions from his pen, until I now find myself an enthusiastic admirer and disciple of the Manchester preacher, studying his sermons with the closest care, and reading everything he gives to the public with genuine pleasure and fascination.

This feeling had long made me anxious to hear Dr. MacLaren, but never until the past summer did such an opportunity present itself. When I found that I was to be in England a longer time than usual, I wrote and ascertained when the doctor would be in his pulpit, and, in accordance with his answer, planned to go to Manchester the first Sunday in August expressly to