

singing, preaching and giving. So *earnest* were they that they neglected to take their regular food. Probably they held special and prolonged services, and were so interested that they felt not the cravings of hunger. No church can be considered a *model* one, unless its members meet regularly for the worship of God, and unless their services are earnest and devout. The sanctuary must not be like an ice house—the preaching prayers and praises must not be cold and tame and uninteresting. There must be life and love and gladness in every act of worship.

"Lord how delightful 'tis to see
A whole assembly worship Thee
At once they sing, at once they pray
They hear of Heaven and learn the way."

(2) The church at Antioch had *eminent workers*. It was strong in good and gifted men. It had "prophets" who enjoyed the gift of supernatural speech and who could predict the future; and "teachers" who well qualified the young and the beginners in the christian life. Five of these are mentioned by name—all of them had been wonderfully saved—and when saved, they delighted to serve. All were not equally gifted, but all worked earnestly for the conversion of sinners and for the edification of saints. They were deeply interested in the extension and establishment of the church.

Even so, in every model church there must be many earnest, faithful workers. It is a terrible mistake to leave the work of the church to the minister and a few others. Our Sabbath School Teachers and Elders are doing a noble work, but *all* the members of the church, male and female, young and old, should come up to the help of the Lord. To *many* connected with our churches the reproof of Moses to the two and a half tribes who settled beyond Jordan, might be appropriately repeated. "Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?" There should be no idlers—no loiterers in the church. Every congregation should be like a bee-hive in early summer.

(3) The church at Antioch was under the *guidance* of the *Holy Spirit*. He worked mightily in it. We are told that *He spake* unto them and told them their duty. *How* he did so we cannot tell. The church was what it was because of His presence and power. He *came* in answer to prayer and He *abode* with them, because they depended upon

Him and valued His aid. No church can be a model church without the Spirit's abiding presence. He must inspire its members and aid them in their worship and work continually or they will live "at a poor dying rate." A model church will depend for prosperity and growth, not upon the beauty of the place of worship, or the eloquence of the minister, or the music of the choir, or the number, wealth and social standing of its members, but upon the Holy Spirit. Earnest and persevering prayer will be offered for His guidance and aid. His council must be sought when it is proposed to begin work in any foreign field. Happy indeed is the church that is assisted and controlled by the Holy Spirit in all things.

(4) The church at Antioch was a *missionary* church. Barnabas and Saul, two of their leading men, were gladly sent to carry the gospel to distant countries. They did not say, "we cannot spare them from Antioch, there is still a great work to be done here." They did not wait till Syria was evangelised before engaging in foreign mission work. Work in the foreign field must not cease till the work at Home is thoroughly done. Every living church must be a missionary church. Proselytism is an essential character of christianity. Light must shine, fire must burn, water must flow, the rose must exhale its fragrance, so christians must work for the salvation of others as far away as their influence can reach. A living church is not satisfied with getting in, it must give out. Church life is evidenced by missionary zeal. *Many* congregations could and should send missionaries of their own; but *all*, however poor, should help by their prayers and gifts. From dying millions the piteous cry comes to us, "Come over and help us."

II. We have a picture of *model missionaries*. Barnabas and Saul were great and good men, well fitted for mission work.

(1) *They were called by God*. It is not enough for a man to wish to enter the ministry or be a foreign missionary, it is not enough for him to be commissioned by the church—he must have a divine call. God has a special work for every child of His. He means one to enter the ministry and another to serve Him in some other way. He means one to be a worker at home, another in a Foreign land. Each of us must find out what God wants him to be, and where God wants him to go. No man should run without being sent. Barna-