

## THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL.

The heart of the gospel is the saving of souls and the way to save souls is to go into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in.

We rejoice that God is calling men and women, noble men and women and many of them, to go near and far that they may reap the fields white unto the harvest. We rejoice that God is calling men and women, noble men and women and many of them, to give and to give largely of their means to support the reapers in the fields. The reports coming in from every direction show that never in history have so many individuals and so many churches manifested a disposition to be "hilarious" givers for missions.

The very heart of the gospel is missions, and we are beginning to act upon this fact. If the very foundation of a creed is not the Master's "Go," then is that creed out of line with the Gospel. Self gratulations about beliefs are uselessly unless along therewith go generous sacrifices of self that the heathen may hear of Christ and be saved. The fact is if we go in the spirit and might of him who said, "Lo I am with you alway," there will be little need of anxiety about beliefs. He that wills to do his will shall know of the doctrine. Into the heart and mind of the eagerly going to the lost, comes the very spirit of him, who has searched the "depths" of God and yearns with omnipotence to impart it to all.

## BUILT ON THE SANDS.

As I was looking over the paper the other morning, I saw a dispatch from Plymouth, Massachusetts, stating that one of the buildings of a manufacturing company had sunk four feet in a week, and was still settling. All hope of saving the building has been abandoned, and the machinery is being removed. The cause of the sinking has been found to be due to quicksand. The words of our Lord at once came to mind, "And every one that heareth these words of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand." There is only one secure foundation for the life here and hereafter, and that is Jesus Christ. For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. In the face of the emphatic words of Christ, men go right on laying other foundations, as they think, ignoring the fact that Jesus himself has said that the salvation or condemnation of men depends upon their attitude to his word. Men will go into eternal death or life, as they receive Christ and his teachings, or reject them.—Ex.

## OVER AND OVER.

"He said nothing new," said a voice, judicially, when the meeting was over. "It was just the same old things over again." "And they rested and comforted in just the same old way," interposed another, quickly; "just the same dear old way that they rested and comforted sore and tired hearts through all the centuries. I think it is the over-and-over of the gospel that is its utmost worth to me. Burdens will press heavily, unkindness will hurt, the sky will cloud, hands and feet grow weary, and the heart faint, the task is too great for us, and it scarcely seems worth while to try. Then, through habit, or duty, or desperation, 'Back to the book we come,' to the tender, living Voice that forever speaks through it if we will but listen. Just the same old words that we have heard a-d read hundreds of times, but we feel the Father's love again, the hurt and pain die away, faith fits its head and smiles toward the waiting home afar, and once more we are ready for the Master's 'Follow me.'—Forward.

## TRUTHS THAT HOLD.

Dives seems to have been a kind man to allow Lazarus to lie at his gate. It was a question of character, however, that separated them in the other world. A man is far away from God who is unlike God. It is not a geographical question as to the distance between your sick room and the comforting heart of God. Nature alone cannot lead us to the discovery of God. Nature told me a fib when a child. It said my stick was crooked when I put it into the water. The Bible is the heavenly mail bag to bring God near to us.—H. Ostrom.

## A CANDIDATE FOR GLORY.

A minister tells us that one night during the time of a spiritual awakening, he was wearied and fell asleep in his chair. He dreamed that he saw a man coming to him with weights and measures and chemical apparatus, who said to him:

"I want to analyze your zeal."  
He was very much pleased at this, believing it was great. The stranger used his weights and chemicals, and then wrote down the result as follows:

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Personal ambition     | 23 parts |
| Love of praise        | 19 "     |
| Pride of denomination | 15 "     |
| Pride of talent       | 14 "     |
| Love of authority     | 12 "     |
| Bigotry               | 10 "     |
| Love to God, pure     | 4 "      |
| Love to man zeal      | 3 "      |
| 100 parts             | 100      |

## DEMAS.

This man was a great disappointment to the church. He gave promise of a useful Christian life, but failed to make good the promise. His opportunities were great, but he failed to improve them. Instead of fastening himself to the eternal truths of the Word of God, and the unseen things which are eternal, he fastened himself to a piece of driftwood, in the world's passing show. Instead of laying hold of Christ Jesus, and being "strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inward man," Demas laid hold of a bit of frayed rope that was fastened to nothing, and because of this he drifted, until Paul wrote of him, "Demas forsook me, having loved this present world." Instead of grasping the great and blessed realities of revelation, this man grasped a handful of fog and found it just as satisfying as such material always is—a clammy, unsubstantial, unsatisfying nothing. In all the centuries, since men appeared on this earth, there have been those who have forsaken the way of righteousness, because of the love of the world, and the pleasures and profits of the present age. But was Demas really so far from righteousness as all that? He was according to the Scriptures; for the warning and statement is "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Love of the world and love of God do not co-exist in the heart. The "If ye love me" of Christ means something definite, radical, unmistakable, uncompromising in relation to this present world. The Demas spirit must be replaced by the Spirit of the Lord Jesus.—Ex.

## TEARING DOWN THE OLD.

On a busy corner in a city a crowd had collected to watch the tearing down of some old buildings. That corner of ground was very valuable, and the old buildings must come down, to make room for new up-to-date structures. Certain preparations were made, then the workmen fastened some cables in two or three places, and stepping back gave a signal, and at once an engine began puffing, the cables tightened, and in a moment down came entire front of one of the buildings. The operation was repeated again and again, until in a short time, nothing but a heap of debris remained where the buildings had stood. For days men worked clearing away the debris, and then began the work of building the new and stately structure, in the place where the old and unsightly buildings had stood. In becoming a new creation in Christ Jesus the almighty power of God, by the Holy Spirit, lays hold of the old nature, and will, and brings them tumbling to the ground. In their place the new man grows into the likeness of his Redeemer and Lord. This growth is often retarded because the man clings to some of the old wreck, and wants to incorporate it in the new, or used the old material to build little annexes to the new man that God is fashioning. But the old must be pulled down, the debris carted away, and the life be lived according to the will of God. Fasten some great promise to the sin, the doubt, the fear, or whatever your trouble may be, and then signal the Lord to pull, and out and down it will come and he himself will come in. With his help, "Put away as concerning your former manner of life, the old man that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit"; and "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man that after God hath been created, in righteousness and holiness of truth."—Ex.

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Up to the present time the Company has paid upwards of \$89,000 in dividends, returning to our customers 24 per cent. annually on their investment.

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