

Ever since that day, Parish Missions, under one form or another, have existed and flourished in the Church of Christ, and the message brought by the missionary has always been the same pregnant and everlasting truth, "the kingdom of heaven is at hand," the same ever-needed practical lesson, "do penance." When the missionary speaks to his listeners on the End of Man, Sin, Death, Judgment, Hell, or topics akin to these ; in other words, when he tells them that we all come from God and are to go back to God, that we have been called forth from our native nothingness by an all powerful act of God's mysterious love, and are destined to live for all eternity in perfect happiness with Him ; that there is but one real obstacle to hinder us from attaining this glorious destiny ; that the days of man on this earth are short, his life a vapour which appeareth for a little while, and afterwards shall vanish away, and it is appointed unto men once to die ; that we are to give a full and strict account of all our thoughts, words, deeds and omissions to a Judge who searcheth the reins and the heart, whose decision shall be entirely fair, and from whom there can be no appeal ; finally, that there exists a place of punishment which has been prepared by the justice of God for those who die in mortal enmity with their Creator, Redeemer and Father ; what does he do but impress upon them, in many words and with varied forms of expression, that the kingdom of heaven is at hand for them? The burden of the missionary's message to our sinful and fallen race to-day, is the same as was the theme of the first Twelve to the men of their time ; so, too, the warning cry that strikes upon our ears and penetrates to our hearts, as we listen to the development of the great and everlasting truths, and as the unseen world becomes more real and more important in our eyes, is, as it was in the days of the Apostles : "Do penance."

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These great truths and the vital lesson they enforce are easily forgotten or lost sight of ; the kingdoms of this world