

save us, he has constrained us to feel a deep and abiding solicitude for the Salvation of our fellows. To love our Saviour, and to seek the conversion of those for whom he died, are necessarily inseparable in the hearts of those, *who have become partakers of the divine nature*, because they stand as cause and effect, in the regenerated soul. We know of no surer test of the presence and efficacy of any cause, than is to be found in the practical effects which it produces, and there can be no surer criterion of the presence and power of the love of God in the church, than its zeal for the extension and triumphs of the kingdom of Christ. And where this love abounds, I care not what the speculative views of a man may be, his heart will yearn for the conversion of the world. When he looks abroad upon the waste places of Zion, and sees that "darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the people," that at home and abroad, superstition and idolatry brood over the wide chaos of lost and ruined, but immortal souls, he cannot but cry, "O, that the Lord might arise upon thee, and his glory be seen upon thee;—that the nations might come to thy light and kings to the brightness of thy rising." And what is this, but to feel as Christ felt,—to realize that it is our noblest and divinest work appointed us under our conquering Prince, to build the old wastes, to raise up the former desolations, to repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations!

Brethren, do we feel our mission? How many of us realize that there is *necessity laid upon us* to preach the gospel? Yet it is as true of each of us as it was of the devoted Apostle, "*woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel!*" We cannot get away from under the eternal weight of this divine obligation. In the marts of commerce, along the highways of travel, within the domestic circle, the ravages of sin rise up before us,—we see humanity trodden down under its desolations,—our very children entangled in its fatal folds; and there is a voice within us—a divine voice—the utterance of an enlightened Christian conscience, which bids us run to the rescue. We cannot live in the love of God and suppress the feeling. In our public and in our private devotions, we are praying for the conversion of the nations,—that laborers may be sent abroad to gather this wide harvest of the world, that watchmen may be set upon thy walls, O Jerusalem! who shall never hold their peace day nor night: and can we be honest, and withhold our aid in the blessed work! O! can we rest, or hold our peace, "until her righteousness go forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth." In