

isfied, must be held fast and wrought out with vigor if we would not betray the trust providentially confided to us of laying the foundations firm and strong of a Christian civilization in this North-West land.

We therefore entreat you, dear brethren, do not forget that hitherto Methodists have been distinguished by the emphasis they have given to the essential doctrines of Christianity. In all the years of our history the truths relating to God, to moral government, to immortality and to eternal retribution, have been sacredly maintained and asserted with great distinctness. In common with all Christian people, we have held to the inspiration and divine authority of the Scriptures, the divine origin of the Church, the vocation of the ministry, the value of the sacraments, and the indispensableness of the strictest morality, according to the New Testament standard. But beyond all these points, we have made conspicuous the sinfulness of sin, the necessity of the atonement, the universality of provisional redemption, the freedom of the will and the freeness of the grace of God which bringeth salvation. Not one of these can be discarded or distorted without marring the scheme of salvation revealed in the Gospel.

But there are other doctrines more peculiarly our own which need to be emphasized,—doctrines which relate to salvation *applied* as well as provided, and which underlie the experience of the soul in its emergence out of the darkness and death of sin into the light and life of righteousness. These other doctrines have been the rallying cry of Methodism in the past, and if we would maintain our position in these days of loose thinking and loose teaching, they must be our rallying cry still. They are repentance, faith, justification, adoption, the witness of the Spirit, sanctification and Christian perfection. Out of these come all our experiences, all our joys and hopes, our inspiration and zeal, and upon them are built all our special forms and means of grace. Let us, therefore, dear brethren, as we value the purity of our Church and its power to convert the people and spread Scriptural holiness through this land, hold fast these doctrines as they appear in the Scriptures and as they have been attested by the experience of the Church in the past. With devout thankfulness we record the fact that the ministry of the Word and other divinely sanctioned means of grace have been accompanied during the past year in a most encouraging degree by the unction and power of the Holy Ghost, resulting in a net increase to our membership of 683. Thus in this critical and questioning age, when almost every system and doctrine is thrown into the crucible of investigation, God continues to put the stamp of His approval upon the pastoral and evangelistic efforts of the Methodist Church.

It gives us pleasure to observe that the peculiarities of our Church life are still cherished in the hearts of our people, that our

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