

The Scriptures bear unequivocal testimony to the truth we are attempting to establish. The commission which Christ gave his followers to preach the gospel to every creature, while it involves every instrumentality, which promises auxiliary assistance, points distinctly to the living ministry, as the means by which the world is to be evangelized. So the apostles understood the commission. They engaged with great singleness of purpose in preaching, and thought that it was not reasonable, that they should leave the word of God and serve tables. Paul, with his characteristic energy, said, 'necessity is laid upon me; yea, wo is me if I preach not the gospel.' And again: 'I am a debtor both to the Greek and the Barbarian, both to the wise and the unwise.' And again: 'It pleased God, by the foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe.'

But the apostle has left a still more lucid commentary upon the commission of the Saviour. After having asserted that 'whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,' he proceeds: 'How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?' Thus by inseparable links the salvation of the world is connected with the sending forth of a competent number of preachers.

One of the standing injunctions laid upon the ministry is, 'the things which thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also' Enough, however, has been advanced to show that the preaching of the gospel is the divinely appointed instrument in converting the world. Any plan, therefore, which overlooks or undervalues this instrumentality, must ne-

cessarily prove unsuccessful. The press is a mighty engine, and in its appropriate sphere, as auxiliary to the cause of righteousness, can effect much; but it should never be substituted for the living ministry, either in our own or in heathen lands. Nor would I intimate that it is so substituted. There may be danger, however, in the enlarged and complex operations of Christian benevolence, of attempting to improve upon the simple means which God has ordained, and of relying too much upon subordinate instrumentalities. Such is our inertness in the cause of Christ, our love of ease, and want of self-denial, that we are ready to embrace almost any plan, which rids us of personal effort and sacrifice. Any device to convert the world, which dispenses with the personal dedication of ourselves, our sons, and our daughters, has much to commend itself to the carnal heart. But such plans are contrary to the word of God, and will therefore be fruitless. Our young men must not deceive themselves with the idea, that there is not a demand made upon their personal services—a demand which the devotion of prospective worldly gains will not meet, nor frivolous excuses justify in slighting, nor for which an ill-defined hope of being more useful in some secular employment can be substituted. The world will lie in darkness another eighteen centuries, unless the command, *GO PREACH THE GOSPEL*, is repended to, by the personal dedication of many of the sons of the church.

Six hundred millions of dying heathens are perishing for the bread of life. Every day consigns nearly sixty thousand to the grave, who have never heard of the Saviour. Let imagination carry us for a moment to Asia. Follow its mighty rivers, along the banks of which not a Christian temple is erected. Traverse its vast central and northern deserts,