

would meet to consult about such permanent preventive measures while the fire was yet raging or the multitudes were yet starving or freezing! Humanity and philanthropy instinctively impel us to relieve immediately the peril of the perishing.

God has committed to the church a double work. Undoubtedly there are remote and permanent results at which we are to aim, even the laying of broad and firm foundations for the evangelization and edification of future generations. We are to erect Christian homes, churches, schools, colleges, seminaries; provide translations of the Word of God and a Christian literature, thus simplifying the work of each succeeding generation, lessening the labor, facilitating the process, accelerating the progress of the work, for all time to come. But, meanwhile, we must not overlook what is even a more pressing duty and privilege, viz.: *we must not permit this generation to die unsaved*, so far as our consecrated labor can prevent it. No activity in providing for *future* generations can atone for our inactivity in providing for our own generation, which first of all we are to serve, by the will of God, with the gospel.

We pray God that this one thought may press with mighty and resistless weight upon the heart and conscience of every believer. When Christ said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," he must have meant that those to whom he spoke should go forth and reach those who were then living. That command is of perpetual force. It applies to every new generation of believers; and it means that, in every successive age, the church shall both undertake and overtake this great work. If it seem too great, he reminds us that omnipotence is His: "All power;" omnipresence is His: "Lo, I am with you;" eternity is His: "Alway, even unto the end of the age." And, if the church will take up this work faithfully, He will supplement all her efforts with His omnipotent, omnipresent, perpetual co-operation.

How the church may serve its own generation has an example in Scripture history. The so-called Acts of the Apostles is a book, the very frame work of which has a strange meaning. It covers just about thirty-three years, the average lifetime of a generation. It reveals the infant church, receiving its "infant baptism," its anointing of the Holy Ghost for service; and then undertaking to reach every "nation" and "every creature" with the proclamation of the gospel. The book covers only the period of a single generation, as though to show us what was possible even then, with a few disciples who had no wealth, no learning, no social standing; no modern facilities for travel and transportation, for translation and publication and distribution of the word of God, for acquiring and utilizing foreign tongues; and, as though to demonstrate to each succeeding generation of believers what could be done and what should be attempted, as the progress of the