

## WHAT MISSIONS MEAN.

**T**HE command is to each of us, as individuals, "Go." The obligation is upon me. I must go or I must send. It may be that I cannot go, but I have the privilege of sending. Others can go, others will go; I may go in them. We may do great things for the Kingdom by earnest prayer for His blessings on our missionaries and our work in foreign fields. But we too often neglect this duty; we fail to enter into this privilege. But what should missions mean to us? Before it means anything it meant mercy, and it means mercy now. God saw the world in sin, but in the exercise of His mercy He sent His Son into the world to save the world. "God commendeth His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Missions meant mercy for us; now it means mercy for others through us.

Missions also mean a message. Mercy had a message for us. Shall we not send mercy's message on to those, without a knowledge of God, beyond the seas? God's message to us was a message of love. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life." This message He sent by His own Son. This message was the "Word," the Son. We often speak of the sufferings of Christ for the redemption of men; but do we ever think of the cost to God of the sacrifice of His Son? Who shall say that the Secretary of our Foreign Mission Board did not send his heart into Japan when he sent his son into that land of heathenism? Likewise, God sent His very heart into the world when He sent Christ into the world to save it from sin and destruction. Missions mean a Messenger—and Jesus Christ is that Messenger. He is the glorified Messenger and His is the sweetest message that has ever been sent to the world. Have we received the Messenger; have we heard the message? Then we are to pass the message on to others, that they may "have fellowship with us." This we certainly will do if, indeed, "our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ."

Let us note also that missions mean Me. Missions meant mercy for me, a message for me, a Messenger for me. I was the object of God's mercy and the recipient of His message. Shall I not be, then, God's messenger of mercy to those in this land or others benighted? God would send His message to others through us who have already been saved. This work,

denied the angels of Heaven, has been committed unto us, to whom is given the exalted privilege of being co-workers with God.

We find, then, that missions mean money, for the reason that money will send God's messenger and sustain him while giving God's message to those who so much need to learn the wisdom which is unto salvation. Whose money? Most emphatically, "my money. Because of the revelation of God's mercy for me, I am His, having been 'bought with a price,' and my money is His money. First, then, let us give our own selves to the Lord, after which we should withhold nothing from God that seems to be necessary for the furtherance of His work in the world. We must work, give and pray to the end, that His Kingdom may come fully and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. The spreading of the Gospel to the ends of the earth means, therefore, on the one hand, God's mercy and message, and on the other hand my money and myself—in other words, God's grace and my giving.—J. W. Dyches, Th. D., in *The Foreign Mission Journal*.

## VISIT TO THE INLAND SEA—JAPAN.

**T**HREE weeks spent in the staunch and trim two topmast schooner "Fukim Maru," of 90 tons capacity, and speedy and comfortable as a yacht, sailing hither and yon amid the mountain-summitted, tree-clad islands of Japan's far-famed Inland Sea; is an experience worth recording. Not so much because of the speed and comfort of the vessel, or the beauty and grandeur of the scenery, as because of what is being done by means of this trim white schooner and her missionary skipper for the hundreds of thousands of men, women and children dwelling mid these scenes of beauty, and yet not knowing whose hand piled up the mountains, clothing them with forest verdure, or who formed the sea glittering all about them. The "skipper," Capt. Bickel, has been manifestly called of God to this special work. The son of the gifted Philip Bickel who has done so notable a work as a Baptist in Germany, he spent ten years at sea, receiving in England a master's certificate. He then spent some time in London in charge of the Baptist Book and Tract Society, in which work he was very successful. Then came the call to go to Japan and build and navigate a mission ship, and with it evangelize the islands in and about Japan. He gave up his work in London and came to Yokohama, and there had