

2. There are definite and obvious laws of the divine procedure in guiding the action of man in the department of grace, just as in that of nature. The sowing of the seed gives promise of the harvest, and since in every quarter of our land the word has been faithfully taught and preached, we have even greater encouragement in the expectation of a harvest than has the farmer; for God has declared "My word shall not return unto me void." "Come, for all things are now ready," is the divine word. God is ready, the lost are ready, the very angels wait to sing the welcome home, the victory waits for us.

Three looks are necessary, if our hopes are to be realized and our preparation to be complete:

I. AN UPWARD LOOK TO GOD.—We must know his mind in all things and follow his guidance in every matter whether great or small. In this we are but following the example of God's servants of old:

Of Gideon, who lifted up his eyes, then built an altar unto the Lord, and the altar of Baal was overthrown (Judges vi.);

Of Solomon, when he lifted up his eyes and asked a blessing, and God gave him wisdom and knowledge, and added wealth and honor such as no king had ever had before (1 Chron. i.);

Of David, when he said: "I will lift up mine eyes . . . for my help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth (Psalm cxxi.);

Of our Lord Himself, who ever lifted up His eyes to heaven, and then poured out His blessings on the people.

This is always the first step in a work of grace. Better never move; better die at your post, like the Pompeian sentinel, than to take one step without his guidance. But rest assured, since he gave His Son to die for the lost and sent His Spirit to plead with the dying, you will need only to look unto Him to have Him send you forth conquering and to conquer.

II. AN OUTWARD LOOK UPON THE FIELD.—When the heads of grain hang heavy in the harvest-field it is high time to thrust in the sickle, and sing the harvest-home. So what of the spiritual field about us?

There is abundant reason for rejoicing, I will agree. I am no pessimist, so far as either the needs are concerned or the great remedy we have to present to cure the world's sin-sickness. All that is good in the world, I believe, is growing better. But it will make the heart ache, and the eyes run down with tears, to catch but a glimpse of the desolation about us, and realize that on every side of us walk the lost, for whom Christ died. And we should grow discouraged but for the strength of that upward look.

It has been suggested that, in Christian countries, the necessity of evangelizing is not now so imperative as it was in the beginning; that here Christianity is established; that the people are acquainted with the gospel and are nominally believers in its truth. But such a position is a false one. The man at home who is not regenerated is as utterly unsaved—and that without excuse—as the heathen who has never heard the gospel's sound. There are more unconverted idolaters in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Boston than there were in Athens when Paul first went to that city. There are more unsaved people in the world to-day than there were when the disciples first began to preach the gospel. More souls are born every year in New York than are converted, and more people die than are saved; and I have no doubt that the proportion is the same elsewhere. God pity us! we have been resting from our labors, rejoicing in the few that are saved, and the multitudes have gone hurrying on to the judgment!

We must "feed the flock," it is true; we must "edify the body of Christ," I will allow; but in God's name, let us go forth to "rescue the perishing." And we have this to encourage. I