

the poor, the poor less envious of the rich, wherever the gospel message had been received. And, in the face of all these facts, the noble-minded, generous-hearted Paul could well say, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God."

We may conclude, therefore, that these arguments, coming from such a man as Paul, in defence of himself as well as of the gospel he preached, were most conclusive.

But have they still the same force as an apology with us? When we who believe and teach the gospel, defend it and ourselves as Paul did, by saying: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ," what weight does our statement carry with it? Just the weight of our own character—no more and no less. Coming from some, it is useless; coming from others, it is unanswerable. Can we, who say: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ," go further and give as our reason for being proud of it that it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth"? We certainly can. The centuries, as they have rolled by, have strengthened rather than weakened the force of this argument. They have added fresh evidences of the gospel's power. Where all down the centuries has the power of sin been most overcome? Without a shadow of doubt, it has been where men have heard and believed the gospel of Jesus Christ. Where have ignorance, want, sorrow, misery, wretchedness and sin most prevailed? Has it not been in lands where the gospel message was unheard, or, if preached, was mixed with so much rubbish that few could find the kernel of truth hidden amidst the chaff? Who fill our jails, our penitentiaries, our houses of correction to-day? It is not the men and women or boys and girls who have heard and believed the gospel of Christ. It is those who have not heard that gospel, or who believe not, if they have heard. In what lands to-day are sorrow and sin most conspicuous? Is it not in those where the gospel has never been heard?