

lamp ; because there is a power in the sun not to be found in a lamp or in a taper. A taper may help man in the midnight darkness, or when the skies are overcast with clouds ; then he may walk patiently by the light of a taper and not stumble ; but not ten thousand times ten thousand lamps can turn night into day, or bring summer warmth from out the cold dearth of winter. I am fearful that sometimes we forget the importance of the work pressing upon our hands at this present time, because our eyes are cast into the future, and we are anxious to know what is in store for us, and for the church. And yet we speak of the historical character of our religion. As far as you and I have any part in the fulfilment of the ideas of Providence, our business is to see that the kingdom of God is spread into all parts of the earth, and therefore it is that we always insist, in our advocacy of christian work, that its results cannot be measured by arithmetical calculations ; it cannot be measured by the number of churches that are built, nor by the number of generous contributions poured into the treasuries of our charitable and benevolent institutions ; it must be gauged at last by the extent to which it has accomplished the purification of our literature and by the growth of national virtue. Our work is not only in the present, but it is for the present. We have to do with men of to-day, and we have to do with them on earth. I confess that I have very little liking for the illustration which likens the church to a life-boat, which goes forth on a tossing and raging sea to save the shipwrecked mariners of the earth. That may be part of the Church's mission, but it is not the most glorious part ; I love to think of that other illustration which has been given us, in which the earth is likened to a huge quarry from which the Church is continually bringing forth material out of which a great and glorious temple of God is to be constructed, whose spires shall reach the highest heaven and be radiant in the supernal glory of God. The Church can maintain her position only as she is active in spreading her principles. That, certainly, whatever may be the ultimate vocation of the Church, is the most important work now entrusted to her hands. Can any of us doubt that the spiritual deliverance of the nations and their firm establishment in righteousness and love, can ever be brought about in any other way than by the spreading of the gospel. Can it be accomplished by the revival of the pagan rites of the Greeks and the Romans, or by universalising those of India and China ? Can it be accomplished even by the revival of Judaism itself ? No ; our future lies in the pierced palms of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we are summoned to proclaim everywhere His infinite and unceasing love for mankind. Just one more thought. Who shows a lamp or a lantern when the sun is shining ? We are summoned in this world of ours not to call any man master—but for what reason ? Not because we are to be free from all restraint, but because One is our Master, even Christ Himself. The acknowledgement of this fact is the link of our common Protestantism for which we have been fighting for more than three hundred years. Call no man master, because One alone is your Master, even Christ. In these days, while others are mumbling their new theologies, let us be found speaking the words of Christ clearly and emphatically, and where He does not speak, let us enjoin on ourselves and on others a reverent silence.

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Every Bible is a missionary that preaches Jesus and the resurrection, and where one Bible is preserved in a nation, there is a spark of celestial fire which shall break forth into a flame to chase away darkness.—*John M. Mason.*

“This lamp off the everlasting throne,  
 Mercy took down, and in the night of Time  
 Stood, casting on the dark her gracious bow,  
 And evermore beseeching men with tears  
 And earnest sighs, to hear, believe, and live.”