

III.

It is true there are discouragements at home and abroad. But it is not to be supposed that a church inspired by an Almighty Leader will neglect a duty because it is formidable. The work of the church is carried on by a few, but what a privilege to be the Lord's vanguard, to be fore-runners of the coming King, to go into the strongholds of Satan and on the ramparts plant the banner of the gospel of peace; to be voices crying in the dense wilderness of heathen lands announcing the coming of the King. The work is hard, but it is good to strive a noble strife.

Surely the work given to the Christian church is not greater than that given to the great apostle when it was said to him, "I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles." He and his companion was called upon to evangelize the world, to confront Jewish fanaticism and Pagan superstition. Paul with the Master's commission in his hands felt justified in going to any and every place. He had his orders from the King. It is not for a follower of Christ to be disheartened. *He* met with opposition and hatred and from all appearance His work was a failure, but He did not so regard it when He said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but he of good courage I have overcome the world."

The mission of the world's greatest teachers often appeared to their contemporaries to have been a failure. Their career often closed in darkness and death. Isaiah is sawn asunder, Socrates drinks the hemlock cup, Jesus Christ is crucified between two thieves. Yet these are the men who lighten the world. They stand like stars apart in the firmament of the world's history. Their memory and deeds light the world with a glory that is brightening every day. The greatest honor which God can confer upon any man or church is to give them some great and difficult work to do. Let us, then, with courage tighten our harness and burnish our weapons and face our work. Enough for us to know that it is God's will that we should do so.

The outlook assuredly is not dark. We have assurances of success. Our leader will not fail nor be discouraged till He have set judgment in the earth. No work done in His name and for His sake shall be in vain. We may not realize all our anticipations, but to us individually the work will be blessed. The presence of Christ will be more realized in our souls. As we work beside the Master we shall get His Spirit, His peace, and shall get possession more consciously of the wealth of God—the good part which shall not be taken from us.