

Notwithstanding individual selfish acts, they are living unselfish Christian lives: none more so on earth. See, then, how they are affected. Their whole lives and those of kindred workers and institutions, such as the Bible Society with its thousands of Christian workers all, all are but wasted lives. All are but delaying the fall of a crumbling fabric, and but postponing the miserable day when the Church, sad relic of vanished goodness, will have passed into history. Of course, her downfall will be accompanied with that of all kindred societies whose object is the welfare of mankind.

But may I ask you to consider what this means to **Christ** Himself? Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it. He was to draw all men unto Him. To Him every knee was to bow and every tongue confess. He gave such promises that His defeat forever discredits Him and His great mission. He shall not see the travail of His soul nor be satisfied now. The alleged defeat of Calvary is reproduced today but this time it is a climax. The very Spirit He sent is now inoperative to preserve a declining cause. And the fact that Christ dieth no more, but **once** in the end of the world He appeared, frustrates all hope for the future.

Let me suggest three alternatives, either of which you can choose, but one of which **must** be true. Please give them your consideration. First, Christ is already defeated or is being defeated. This requires no explanation, modification or amplification, and His defeat involves everything connected with Him. N.B.—This is absolutely true if the Church is declining. Or:—

Second, Christ is conquering and will conquer. His disciples are fulfilling their mission and will bring His purposes to pass, but these co-workers of Christ are outside the organized Church, and the apostate Church is by degrees falling to the level it deserves. Or:—

Third, The Church is not waning at all, but even though she is not all she should be and has human faults, yet in the main she is slowly but surely working successfully to the end for which she was founded.

I know of no alternative to add. Which do you choose? I would just remind you if you choose the second that the command, "Go ye into all the world," etc., is being fulfilled only by the **professed** disciples of Christ. That missions, schools, etc., are **within** the organization.

And while you are ruling out the organized Church I would ask what are you going to substitute? What will this lead to? What is the logical conclusion?

The cessation of the activities of the Church today would be the end of all advancement in the line of primary education for benighted nations, of medical benefit worthy the name in the Orient, and of the best inspirations either ourselves or our children get. It would blot out the inspiring hymns and substitute the meaningless doggerel of love songs or the music without words which is often as incomprehensible as the words of vocal music. No society would arise to attend to the moral and social uplift of mankind and of course the Lord's day would be put where the worst element in the land would be glad to have it. Public speech would not die out, but would revive as in the days succeeding the revolution of France—with the same result.