

error, as France, Quebec, and the south of Ireland; at counteracting the evils of infidelity and rationalism, as in Germany; or at winning for Christ that vast heathendom that lies before the Church as a continual reproach. But we mean here simply those Gospel services, of a supplementary kind, that are held from time to time in many of our churches, either by the pastor and his session alone, or with such suitable aid as can be procured. They must of necessity be somewhat spasmodic in their actions, and partake of the nature of *special effort*. They are designed specially to reach the unsaved. Only the saving truths of the Gospel are made prominent. The hatefulness of sin; the necessity of repentance; the terrible danger of unbelief; the hopelessness of merely human effort; the urgent need of immediate and absolute surrender to Christ; the unspeakably tender love of Christ, and His infinite willingness to save; the majestic claims of God; the thought of eternity, and the pathos of the crucifixion, must be urged with all the earnestness that springs from hearts aflame with the desire of saving men. It is true that these are prominent features in all true preaching of Christ. Yet there are other elements also of great importance that enter into the ordinary Sabbath services which are mainly designed "for the perfecting of the saints," and "for the edifying of the body of Christ."

One danger that besets our churches is that of settling down to a comfortable routine. Hence the need for times of intenser action—a need which our best pastors are the first to acknowledge, and the most eager to meet and supply. The currents of the Church's life are in danger of running too much towards externals, and too little towards the deep burning love for the Person of Christ, and an intense longing for the salvation of men. We may be intellectually orthodox and yet be lacking in love, and when love is wanting all is wanting. Orthodoxy without love is but the gaunt skeleton out of which the life has fled. It is a cage in which no bird sings, an empty form without the living power.

Now, evangelistic services are well adapted to arrest this tendency to routine and formalism; to fan into a livelier glow the flame of Christian love; and to quicken into more vigorous action every pulsation of the Church's life. The sun's divergent rays may fail to supply the heat which a given purpose requires. But let