

Missions.



It was a grand day for the world when the Church awoke a century ago to the conviction that it was her duty to organize missionary societies: it will be a grander day still when the *real* Christians in the professing Church awake to the consciousness that it is their duty to be missionaries, each one individually to do all that in them lies, to 'tell it out among the heathen that a SAVIOUR lives.' . .

It was after He had called, commissioned, and sent out His Twelve Apostles that 'the LORD appointed SEVENTY OTHERS ALSO, and sent them, two and two, before His face into every city and place whether He Himself would come.'

There was room for 'The seventy,' as well as 'the twelve,' and much practical wisdom in missionary matters may be gained from a consideration of the action of CHRIST, in the choice, training, appointment, and commission of these,

THE FIRST MISSIONARIES

1. *What was their worldly position?* Chiefly poor and uninfluential. Some were fishermen, and most weremen of that class, ignorant and unlearned. 'Not many wise, not many mighty, not many noble, were called.'

2. *What was their spiritual character?* They were born of GOD. Believers, lovers and followers of the LAMB. Disciples indeed!

3. *What special education had they received?* They heard and learned of the FATHER. They had been with JESUS. They had received from Him the words of GOD. They knew the mysteries of kingdom of heaven.

4. *Who sent them forth?* Their MASTER, the SON of GOD. As the FATHER had sent Him, He sent them, and He Himself was received or rejected in their persons.

5. *What was their work?* Preaching the Gospel, and healing the bodies and souls of men. Testifying to the truth. Confessing CHRIST. Speaking by the SPIRIT of the FATHER.

6. *What was their sphere of labour?* The country at large. Every city and place whither CHRIST Himself would come. They did not settle down, but were itinerant.

7. *How did they travel?* As their MASTER, on foot, without luggage, and carrying no clothes but those they wore. Not singly or alone, but 'two and two.'

8. *How were they supported?* Without gold, silver, or brass. By the hospitality of those among whom they laboured. By inquiring for the worthy, and making abode with them.

9. *How were they protected?* They were sent forth as sheep and lambs, in the midst of wolves. They were to be wise as serpents, harmless as doves.

10. *How were they treated?* Like their MASTER. They were received by some, rejected by others. He foretold they should be delivered up to councils, scourged in synagogues, brought before governors and kings, and persecuted from city to city.

11. *How were they sustained in spirit?* By the conviction that it was enough for the disciple to be as His MASTER. By the faith and fear of Him who is able to preserve and destroy both soul and body. By the supreme affection which they bore to Christ. By the hope of His coming glory. By the assurance that loss of life in His service is everlasting gain.

12. *What did they accomplish?* The work that JESUS gave them to do. They instructed and healed great numbers of persons. They witnessed to the character and words of CHRIST; and conveyed to others the truths He taught. They gathered in the first-fruits of the harvest—of the multitude which no man can number.

The MASTER called, trained, endowed, and sent them forth; He supported, protected, and guided them; He crowned their labours with such success as seemed good in His sight; and *He is the same yesterday and to-day, and for ever!*

We have no fear, therefore, in encouraging young Christians in these days to hear His call and heed His command; . . . and no fear in aiding them to go out into 'The Regions Beyond' in obedience to His great commission! We feel it *must* be right to do so, and it is our earnest expectation and our hope that in many young evangelists, CHRIST shall be magnified, whether it be by life or by death.—Mrs. Grattan Guinness.

GEMS RE-SET.

BLESSED be the hand that prepares a pleasure for a child! for there is no saying when and where it may again bloom forth. Does not almost everybody remember some kind-hearted man who showed him a kindness in the quiet days of his childhood?

HOLD fast your confidence, but do not *trust* or *rest* in it; trust in Christ alone.

TO-DAY is not yesterday: we ourselves change; how can our works and thoughts, if they are always to be the fittest, continue always the same? Change, indeed, is painful, yet ever needful; and, if memory have its force and worth, so also has hope.