

Missions

CHAPTER I.

THE BIBLE AND MISSIONS

Missionary Texts

The Bible contains many missionary texts. Of these the Great Commission, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matt. 28 : 19), is chief. The direct and final command of Christ should suffice for every disciple. There is no appeal when He has spoken.

The Missionary Idea

But, further, all the great leading thoughts, which give character and color to the Bible, and make it what it is, are missionary, have universal application, are for the whole world. Individual texts might be regarded as incidental ; the missionary purpose is so woven into the warp and woof of the Book as to compel the conclusion that it is a missionary Book.

A Redeeming God

The Bible begins with an estrangement, and ends with a reconciliation. Man sinned and wandered into the far country. God undertakes his restoration. In the Bible we have a record of the whole process,—millenniums long,—which ends in "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3 : 13).

The God of the Whole World

The God of the Bible is the God of the whole world. He created the earth and its peoples. "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of