

of the Lord which fills and fires the witnesses ; it is the Lord Himself who *gives testimony to His word* and *grants signs* and wonders to be done by their hands.

When Barnabas and Paul return to Antioch from their first tour of missions, observe the uniform humility with which *every result reached is ascribed to God*, as they bore witness from Antioch to Jerusalem.

1. They rehearsed *all that God had done* with them.

2. And how *He had opened the door of faith* unto the Gentiles.

3. They declared *all that God had done* with them.

4. Peter said : "*God made choice among us that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the Gospel and believe.*"

5. *God bore them witness*, giving them the Holy Ghost even as unto us ; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

6. Paul and Barnabas declared what miracles and wonders *God had wrought* among the Gentiles by them (15 : 12).

7. Simon Peter declared how *God at first did visit the Gentiles* to take out of them a people for His name.

8. After this *I will return and will build again the Tabernacle of David*, and *I will build again the ruins thereof*, and *I will set it up*.

9. That the residue of Adam (see Amos 9 : 11, 12, correct reading) might seek the Lord and all the Gentiles upon *whom my name is called*.

10. And now hear the grand finale, the conclusion of all :

"*Thus saith the Lord, who doeth all these things known unto Him from the age.*"

No man can attentively read such a passage of Scripture as this without seeing that here is a work in which it is *not man and God*, or even *God and man*, but *God*, and *not man*, whom we are to recognize, so constantly is God kept at the front and man thrust to the rear, *out of sight*. And why, if not to put this whole work of missions before us, as, in a unique sense, the *one Divine enterprise* in which the whole Godhead is supremely concerned ? Only *three works* of God are revealed to us in Scripture : 1. Creation of the *universe* ; 2. Creation of *man*, as by a special council of the Godhead ; 3. *New creation of fallen man* in the restored image of God. Both the others being now past acts, this one, man's redemption, now engrosses the activity of the Divine mind ; so that we may say that, so far as this world is concerned, there is just one work decreed by God and to be wrought out by Him—namely, the bringing back of a revolted race to its allegiance to Himself.

This work is invested with a dignity, an authority, a majesty wholly its own and shared by no other, as the one enterprise of God. There are other enterprises, benevolent in purpose, beneficent in result, and worthy of our sympathy and support ; but, we repeat, they are not originally and essentially *divine* enterprises. They had their origin in man, were deemed by him needful and planned by him to meet the need. The whole scheme