

as true of the Church as it is of the individual that "he that watereth shall be watered also himself." God has so ordained, that obedience to Christ's last command is followed by stronger faith, deeper piety, and more devoted love. As zeal for the salvation of men indicates life, so it tends to promote it. If the Church is to be true to its own interests it must be missionary.

But how sadly has this been forgotten. While many and self-denying efforts have been made that the body of Christ might be edified, and its spiritual welfare advanced, yet to what a great extent one of the chief means to that end has been ignored. Since the days of the apostles, only within the present century has the Church begun to realize its obligation to preach the Gospel to every creature. And even yet how little is done, compared with what the Church can and ought to do. It has not yet realized its obligation, even in its own interests, to evangelize the world.

It is seeking to promote its own health and well-being in many ways, but overlooking one of the most important. There is much earnest effort put forth that those within the kingdom may walk worthy of the Lord, and be fruitful in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of God. Large sums are expended in building churches, in supporting ordinances, in benevolent enterprises, and untiring energy is employed in training the young, and in comforting and building up saints in their most holy faith; and yet how far the Church is from being what it ought to be.

One reason why the results of so much effort are so unsatisfactory is found in the little heed that is given to Christ's command, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." How feeble are the efforts to send the Gospel into the regions beyond, compared with those to give it

efficacy at home! Our selfishness is manifest even in the way we attempt to promote our own spiritual life. It is possible to be concerned about our own safety, life and attainments, and to forget our duty to a perishing world. Judging from the relative importance given to the two great departments of the Church's work, one would not conclude that preaching the Gospel throughout the world was its chief work. We are more concerned about ourselves than about the nations whom God bids us teach.

But some may say, you must develop life within before much can be done for the heathen without. True, but souls should be taught to feel that from the day they are born into the kingdom, their life, however feeble, should be employed in doing something to extend the new-found blessings to others. A deep sense of this obligation will not lessen endeavours to grow in holiness, while it will stimulate to more vigorous efforts to save the perishing. All must deplore the lack of this, not only for the sake of the perishing multitudes, but for the sake of the Church itself. Without any doubt much of its work at home fails because so little interest is taken in the extension of Christ's kingdom throughout the world. The great law by which life and health are sustained is ignored. Christ's wishes are disregarded, his presence is not enjoyed, his Spirit is not so fully bestowed, and the life is feeble and languid. The Church is not faithful to its high calling, nor to its own interests, and it may well begin to make apology for its existence.

Since so much depends on the possession of the missionary spirit, the question, "How are we to develop it?" is vitally important. And there are few things that gratify a pastor's heart more than to see the people among whom he labours taking a deep interest in the spread of the Gospel.