

2. Then the common brotherhood and sisterhood should make us missionaries to the very extent of our powers. God hath made of one blood all nations of men who dwell on the face of the earth. One has well said, "I am not only my brother's keeper, but I am my brother's brother." And shall we let our brothers and sisters stumble on in the darkness of death because we are not interested enough to give them the light of life? Shall we allow them to die of spiritual starvation when we might feed them with the bread of heaven? No, no, that would be utterly unworthy of us.

3. Once more we should recognize our obligations along this line, because the preservation of our local churches is a good deal more dependent upon this than we sometimes imagine. If we want to strengthen and perpetuate our own beloved Zion we cannot do this more truly and surely than by helping our missionary enterprises. "A church that is not a missionary church will one day be a missing church," was one of Dr. A. J. Gordon's striking sayings. The connection between the home field and the foreign field is most vital. We are all bound together in a bundle of life and we are all "nourished by the King's country."

A writer in the *Christian Endeavor World* beautifully expresses the thought when he says:

"It is a law of the spiritual world that all life that is centred upon itself, that exists for itself alone, withers and dies. Whosoever will save his life shall lose it.

"This law is as binding for a church as for an individual. A church that wishes to preserve its own life, and that desires to know the more abundant life which Jesus offers to His people, must be a church whose life and love unceasingly flow out to others, wherever men are found who know not God and the salvation which He has provided in Jesus Christ."

4. And then, of course, the great commission which Christ gave to his church through his apostles leaves us no alternative. There is the command as clear as the daylight at noontide, and if we neglect it or ignore it we do so at our peril. It is not so much the question as to whether the heathen, either at home or abroad, will be saved without the gospel as to whether we shall be saved if we do not give it to them. And this brings us to our third need, and that is.

III. *We need more consecration.* Of this there will be no question. If it is true that we are not our own and that we have been bought with a price, then it follows that we should present all that we have and are to God, for we are his, and this is our reasonable service. We owe Him our time, we owe Him our talents, we owe Him our money, we owe Him our all. We might enlarge on these things, but they are so plain that they should need no special emphasis. Some time ago, in one of our missionary papers, there was a brief article on the Order of the Iron Cross, and it may be appropriately quoted in this connection:

"More than seventy years ago the king of Prussia, Frederick William III., found himself in great trouble. He was carrying on expensive wars; he was trying to strengthen his country and make a great nation of the Prussian people, and he had not money enough to accomplish his plans. What should he do? If he stopped where he was the country would be over-run by the enemy, and that would mean terrible distress for everybody.

"Now the king knew that his people loved and trusted him, and he believed that they would be glad to help him. He therefore asked the women of Prussia, as many of them as wanted to help their king, to bring their jewelry of gold and silver, to be melted down into money for the use of their country. Many women brought all the jewelry they had, and for each ornament of gold or silver they received in exchange an ornament of bronze or iron precisely like the gold or silver ones, as a token of the king's gratitude. These iron and bronze ornaments all bore the inscription: 'I gave gold for iron, 1813.'

"No one will be surprised to learn that these ornaments became more highly prized than the gold and silver ones had been, for it was a proof that the woman had given up something for her king. It became very unfashionable to wear any jewelry, for any other would have been a token that the wearer was not loyal to her king and country. So the Order of the Iron Cross grew up, whose members wear no ornaments except a cross of iron on the breast, and give all their surplus money to the service of their fellow-men."

How gloriously prosperous some of our missionary societies would become if our people would only give their surplus jewelry and surplus money toward this God honoring work of this world's redemption!

IV. *The need of more supplication.* Some can go to our mission fields, more can give, and all can pray. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." We need more supplication, for prayer moves the arm that moves the world. "The sea sends its vapor up to heaven, not that it may drift in luxury against the blue sky, travelling leisurely over the lands, but that it may fall in refreshing showers upon the soil, that corn may grow and that flowers may deck the earth with beauty and fill it with gladness." And so our petitions should ascend to God's heaven, and if they do so ascend they will come down in gracious showers, making the wilderness and the solitary place glad and making the moral desert blossom like the rose. We need to pray and we ought to pray for the young recruits, for the old veterans, for the native churches and helpers and for the noble men and women who are at the head of these great enterprises at home. And notwithstanding the many difficulties and dangers and discouragements connected with the work of the world's evangelization, if we do our part, if we seek more information, feel more obligation, possess more consecration and crown all with more supplication, then the various departments of both home and foreign missionary endeavor will be revitalized and the work will doubtless go forward as bright as the sun and as clear as the moon and as powerful as an army with banners. Then, indeed, shall Zion awake and the daughters of Judah be glad.