

"Had the enthusiasm and devotion of the first ages continued the world would have been evangelized long ago. If you seek to evangelize it now in your own time, remember that each one of you is a missionary, be it for good or for evil. Each by his acts and words is spreading or retarding the power of the Gospel. 'None of us liveth to himself' and his life is a witness to the fulness or to the hollowness of his faith.

I have tried to point out that this age of ours is a time of necessity and of opportunity, a time when it is both more needful and more possible than perhaps ever before to send the light forth over the earth. But it is also a time of temptation. There has never been in English-speaking countries an age which so drew men to the pursuit of wealth and enjoyment, because the chances were never so fully open to all, the means of winning wealth never so various and ample, the prizes never so glittering.

In such a time as this, it is hard for any young man of force and spirit not to feel the impulse to fling himself into the current. Many of those who do so are overmastered and swept away by the current, and come to think that success and wealth with the power and fame which wealth brings are the chief aim and end of life.

"Nevertheless the old truth still remains. 'A man's wealth consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth.' 'What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul.' No doubt the pleasure that success brings, is a real pleasure and a legitimate pleasure. We are meant to make the most of such talents as we have received; and when a man achieves the success which gives him standing and influence in the community he becomes better able to help others and to promote good causes.

"It is not in the exertion to the utmost of one's powers that danger lies, but in valuing too much the earthly things that make the outside of life and in forgetting that success is admirable only as it is consecrated to noble purposes, that righteousness is the true riches, that the kingdom of heaven is within us.

"Surely there never was a time when we have all so much need to remember the warnings of our Lord against the love of money and of what money gives. Whoever resists these temptations and lives in the true Gospel spirit, whether he goes forth as a missionary or not, is bearing his part in the evangelization of the world and in helping to plant the kingdom of heaven on earth.

"There is a sentence which rises to the mind of one who looks upon a great assembly of young men of our own strenuous race, young men full of zeal and energy, many of whom will go forth as evangelists over the world; and I repeat it to you with earnest hopes for the good which you will do, be it abroad or at home. It is a sentence of the first and greatest of all Christian missionaries, the apostle sent forth to the Gentile world, whose life of undaunted courage and untiring service bore witness to his faith:

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."