

passing each second, such a multitude would require nearly a century! Each generation thus perishing without Christ has gone to accuse the church before God of the double crime of unfaithfulness to the Saviour and neglect of souls.

Meanwhile, during all these fifty generations, the church has been suffering injury in every vital interest. The connection between the angelistic activity and evangelical purity is natural and necessary. Dr. Duff rang out this as with a voice of thunder. Shaftesbury testified that the most potent remedy for current unbelief, skepticism and ungodliness, is to be perpetually busy in work for souls. And Dr. Hitchcock, almost with his last breath, declared that the church that has no missionaries will soon have no ministers. The primitive church still stands a model and a pattern of purity of faith and fidelity of work. Never was evangelism so universal, both as to those who undertook it and as to those who were reached by it. Ever since, and down to our day, the best churches in every respect have been those which are foremost as aggressive missionary bodies. In fact, the gauge of church life has come to be, what we are doing for lost souls outside of ourselves.

But, most of all, this thought oppresses us, that for fifty generations *Christ has been waiting to see of the travail of His soul* and to be satisfied. Missions have an intensely vital relation to the person of our Lord. He left certain representative commands—commands which center about His own personality: "Follow thou ME!" "Do this, in remembrance of ME"; "Go ye: and lo, I am with you." We are identified with Him; we are to share His travail, His yearnings, His sorrows, His vicarious agonies;* yes, and His conquest, His satisfaction, His coronation, too. How can we be Christ's, and yet have none of His passion for souls? How escape *travailing in birth* for souls until Christ be formed in them?†

Upon the banners of the church let us emblazon, as in letters of light, our motto: **THE WORLD FOR CHRIST IN OUR OWN GENERATION**; and let us take up the work anew, with a firm purpose, by God's help, to overtake every living soul with the message of the Gospel before this generation shall pass away!

God is in haste to cut short this work in righteousness. In a reverent sense, Dr. Gordon has reversed the old adage, and says, "God's extremity is man's opportunity." We, who are His disciples, must come up on higher ground. Our platform must be one of absolute self-surrender to Him for service to our own generation. We must be willing, now and here, to say, "Lord, I am ready to do whatsoever Thou shalt appoint." In simple obedience to that last command, without a secular spirit, a calculating hyper-caution, a dependence on worldly patronage, a distrust of adequate support, without wait-

* Coloss. 1: 24. † Gal. 4: 19.