

On His *first* appearance to His disciples—on the evening of His resurrection day—He commanded them to go forth and “*preach repentance and remission of sins among all nations*,” or as Mark gives it, He said, “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”

When afterwards He met His people on the mountain in Galilee (probably the occasion on which He was seen of five hundred brethren at once, for there was evidently a special summoning to this gathering), and told them that all power was committed to Him in heaven and on earth, He solemnly repeated this command, delivered to His disciples first in the upper chamber in Jerusalem (Matt. xxviii. 16), “Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo! I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” All power is *Mine* ; therefore *go ye and evangelize the world ; for I am with you* . The command in the centre had been vain without the assurance which goes before and the promise which follows after! The task enjoined was tremendous, but the assistance pledged was sufficient.

The first Gospel closes by recording the giving of this great commission for world-wide and never-ceasing Missionary work; but the Acts of the Apostles prove that yet a *third* time before He finally ascended up where He was before, the Son of God, our Saviour, uttered His deep desire as to the future work of His Church.

It was when He was on the very point of finally leaving them, on “the day in which He was taken up, after that He, through the Holy Ghost, had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen.” And what were these His *last* words to His people, His *last* expressed wishes about His disciples? “Ye shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, and unto the *uttermost parts of the earth*.”

The very last thought that passed through the mind of Christ before the clouds received Him out of sight was thus a *thought for the distant heathen*. The final words that fell from His most gracious lips were “the uttermost parts of the earth.” Touching proof of the place held in the heart of Christ by Missionary enterprise! How should it be otherwise? The Son of man—did He not come to seek and save the lost? Who so lost as heathen idolaters? Who so far from God?

What was the teaching of the one great miracle performed by our Lord after His resurrection? That glorious results should follow the toils of Christian fishers of men!--“they were not able to draw the net for the multitude of fishes.”

Indeed, it would seem that on *every* occasion when the Lord after His resurrection met His assembled disciples, He laid on them this one injunction, to declare to the utmost bounds of earth and time, that “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.”

Nay! the fulfilment of this injunction is made a condition of His coming again. “This Gospel of the kingdom shall be *preached in all the world* for a witness to all nations; *then shall the end come*.”

If then this is the great work of the Church during the absence of her Lord, let *every* Christian see to it, that he or she has her share in doing it! No one may neglect it and fail to take active interest in missions on *peril of proving themselves heartlessly indifferent to the last desires of Jesus Christ*! Eighteen hundred years have made no difference in His wishes. He is “the *same* yesterday, to day, and for ever.” He did not speak to Apostles as such only; He addressed them as representatives of the whole Church. Eleven men could not evangelize all the world, nor continue to preach during all the ages. Christ addressed His command to Englishmen and women of the nineteenth century just as much as to Galileans of the first. And a responsibility which rests on *all* must needs rest on *each*.

Reader! ask yourself, what am I doing in obedience to this last command of Christ? Whom am I evangelizing? How much do I *care* for the conversion of the heathen? How often do I *pray* for Missionaries? How much do I *give* to Missions? What difference would it make to me if there were no heathen world?

Is it not a sin and shame that the passing politics of the day have far often more attraction for even true Christians, than the progress of Christ's work on earth? Who was it said, “*If ye love Me, keep My commandments*”?—*Illus. Miss. News*.

Exaggeration.

Some habits are so unconsciously practised that a movement to mend them is the only way to detect them. The beam