

ver loitering." The great work of making known to the multitude the truths of the gospel, "filled his eye, his heart, his hand." Though exhausted, hungry, and thirsty, yet he eagerly seizes upon a fragment of time to save the soul of the poor degraded woman of Samaria. Find him where we will, we never find him seeking repose, or allowing a *single moment* to pass unimproved; but his *first* care always is to give some instruction, suited to the time and occasion. He was so full of eagerness to hasten on this work, that he seemed impatient at the tardy advance of the traitor, and quickened his steps in those memorable words "What thou doest do *quickly*." The soldiers have not to hasten him to the place of execution. No: he makes haste to the cross. He appears to do every thing in his power, to prevent any delay in the work of redeeming love. Ah! should not his example of earnestness in this work, cause our cheeks to redden with the blush of shame? Do you say that this example of *intense* zeal in saving the souls of sinners, should not, as far as it is in your power, be imitated by you? If you thus view his example of earnestness in advancing the cause of truth, and allow it to have no influence on your actions, is it possible that you can participate in the benefits of this sacrifice?—Read what the Saviour himself says in reference to this: "Be ye *perfect*, even as your father which is in heaven is perfect."

The angelic hosts appear to covet the privilege of being engaged in this contest. When commissioned to herald the glad tidings to the shepherds of Bethlehem, how joyfully do they discharge the task. Had they been commissioned to proclaim the gospel to all the dwellers upon the earth, would they have allowed any time to elapse ere they entered upon the glorious service, or would they have manifested the smallest amount of inactivity in the work? No: they would have quickly speeded on silver wings, until they had compassed the whole globe, shouting on their glad-some way, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men."

I would further remark, that a careful consideration of the self-consuming zeal and unceasing exertions of the Apostles and primitive Christians, in making others acquainted with that Jesus, whom they had found to be so precious to their souls, clearly shows, that there is a lamentable lack of the same spirit among *professing* Christians of the present day. What an example of self-consuming zeal and indomitable energy in the work of saving souls do they afford us. A want of the means of support, the menaces of rulers and the mighty princes of the earth, imprisonment, stripes, perils of sea and land, did not *even abate* their earnestness in Christ's service.—The greatness of the work of saving souls appears to be constantly before their minds. Hence, they even "rejoice that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." The epitome of Paul's whole life and character may be summed up in his own words, "I ceased not to warn *every one night and day, with tears*," "*And for me to live is Christ*." These expressions may be paraphrased thus: "Christ is my life: apart from him and his work I seem to have no separate existence. I have grown into that one object." The result of this earnestness in the promulgation of the gospel, was the *rapid* spread of Christianity in the first century.

Now, with these examples of earnestness in saving souls, and the blessed results, in the rapid spread of Christianity—which must to a great extent be attributed to it,—before us, can we content ourselves to occupy a position in reference to missionary work, so largely distinguished for indifference and inactivity; which, we cannot but admit, are the most striking features