

essential duty of the Church is to transform the life of the world by the example and influence of godly living. The primitive Church, in the midst of a world unspeakably corrupt, was content to hold up the banner of personal holiness through the preaching of sin, redemption and sanctification.

And this is in keeping with the essential Ministry of Jesus Christ. Of Him the angel said, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins;" of Him the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world;" and of His own Mission He said, "I came to seek and to save that which was lost — I came to call sinners to repentance — I came that they might have life." Anything that tends to obscure the vision of this divine call or to weaken the character of this divine witness, even if it be done in the name of beneficence and Social Service, will, in the end, be an injury and not a benefit to the Church and to the world.

But that which God has joined together man may not put asunder. Outward conditions infallibly react upon spiritual work. Thanks be to the God of all Grace, miracles of

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grace will be wrought even in the most untoward circumstances, and no man can set limits to the power of God. But it cannot be denied that there are conditions of life that are at the outer limits of the power of grace; there are conditions that cause children from infancy to breathe the atmosphere of vice and crime, that give them for associates thieves and liars, that stifle and extinguish the moral sense within them and so place them almost beyond the power of Divine Grace. Before they can be given a fair chance they must be rescued from their present condition and placed on a better footing. This is the sphere of Social Service. The Gospel was meant to be a leaven to leaven the whole lump. "The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." The ideal of the future is "a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness." The Prophets of old were moral reformers, who thundered their denunciations against the vices of the rich and the oppressions of the powerful, and who sought thus to heal the hurt of the daughter of God's people. And the Lord Himself described His Mission in more than a merely spiritual sense, when He said in the Synagogue at Nazareth, "He hath anointed me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the