

There were at least four classes of peoples to be looked after—converted Jews in Judea, dispersed Jews in the East, Greeks and Romans. A glance at the Acts of the Apostles and at Galatians 1:7-10, will show that there was a distinct understanding entered into and acted upon that there should be a division of labor. James seems to have become the guardian of converted Hebrews in Judea; Peter, to have gone eastward to the Dispersed Tribes about Babylon; John, to have nourished the church in Ephesus, the center of Greek civilization and Diana worship; and Paul to have set his face toward Rome and Gaul. There were doubtless minor subdivisions of labor, but these cardinal points in the compass of the work are conspicuous. In the book of Acts, after the first ten chapters, Peter disappears from view, because the book is mainly designed to tell us how the doors were opened to the *Gentile* world, entered by the apostle of the Gentiles. But we are not necessarily to suppose Peter to have been any less active or successful among the circumcision than Paul among the uncircumcision.

Now we have no record of Peter's activity in evangelism, but we may take Paul's as a specimen of how one believer in the early church served his own generation. We find this one man going within thirty-three years over most of the known world west of the Golden Horn, from Antioch to Athens, from Jerusalem to Rome, and, as somethink, to Spain and Britain. And the astounding result of such evangelistic activity on the part of the whole church is that Paul is able to write to the Colossians, before his death, which must have been, of course, before Nero's death, which was in A. D. 68: "The gospel is come unto you *as it is in all the world*;" and again, "the gospel which ye have heard and which was *preached to every creature* (or, in all creation, R. V.) *under heaven*."* Making all allowance for a legitimate generality of statement, we find it difficult to get away from this fact that, within thirty-five years after our Lord ascended, the gospel had been carried *throughout the known world*. That generation of believers gave the gospel to that same generation of unbelievers as it has never been done since!

There has been a long, a criminal delay of the church in taking up the enterprise of a world's evangelization. While we have been "playing at missions," fifty generations have come and gone, without one generation of them all being overtaken with the gospel! It is believed that, since the days of our Lord, the *average* of a generation has been from about one-third to one-half of the present population of the globe, say 600,000,000. If so, the aggregate of these fifty generations has been 30,000,000,000 or *twenty times the entire present population of the globe*! Of course we can form no conception of such a vast host. To march by us in procession, day and night, ten abreast

* Colossians 1: 6-23; 1 Thess. 1: 6-7.