

CHRIST AND THE WORLD

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

Christianity is missionary in character. God is missionary. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Christ is missionary. "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). The Bible is missionary — its message is to all classes, conditions, climes, etc. The missionary impulse is imparted to every saved soul and the saved are obligated to give the gospel to all — members of same family, circle of acquaintances, those of same country and to all mankind. Saved people do not want to withhold Christ from others. We must witness to our relatives, acquaintances and those in regions beyond.

I. A World Verse.

In giving this verse Christ did not have in mind just one race, tongue or class. Not one person is left out, regardless of color or condition. Christ has commissioned His churches to carry His message to the uttermost parts. It is not our task to argue the propriety or wisdom of missions. There is nothing for us to do but obey Him. The command of this text has in it the ring of challenge, the fire of compassion, the spirit of conquest, the forgetfulness of self, the vision of a world, the call of sacrifice and abandon of devotion. Christ evaded a danger which besets Christianity by refusing to be localized. He did not come to be a local leader but a world redeemer.

II. A World Vision.

Christ reminded His disciples that the field is the world, nothing more nor less. Many have never had a world vision. Their world is some little sphere. The missionary map of most Christians is far too small. It is confined to those sections which appeal to their fancy and excludes those areas toward which they are prejudiced. Facing aroused aggressiveness of non-Christian faiths and movements. Training school in Egypt — 2,500 per year in professions to spread faith of Mohammed.

III. A World Vocation.

"Preach the gospel." That is at heart of command. From this obligation there is no evasion. There is no hope for any apart from Christ and His gospel which has been entrusted to us.

IV. A World Victory.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." "To every creature." None are excluded. There are 2,600,000,000 souls that people the earth, and 92 per cent of them are ignorant of Christ. When people are saved changes take place — physically, intellectually, morally, socially and spiritually. When hearts get right with God, things always change for better. Must carry redeeming message to all.

The Call

"The great world's heart is aching,
aching fiercely in the night,
And God alone can heal it, and God
alone give light;

And the men to bear that message, and
to speak the living Word,
Are you and I, my brothers, and the
millions that have heard.
Can we close our eyes to duty? Can
we fold our hands at ease,
While the gates of night stand open
to the pathway of the seas?
Can we shut up our compassions? Can
we leave our prayer unsaid,
Till the lands which sin has blasted
have been quickened from the dead?

"We grovel among trifles, and our
spirits fret and toss,
While above us burns the vision of the
Christ upon the cross;
And the blood of God is streaming
from His broken hands and side,
And the lips of God are saying, 'Tell
my brothers I have died.'
O voice of God, we hear thee above
the shocks of time,
Thine echoes roll around us, and the
message is sublime;
No power of man shall thwart us, no
stronghold shall dismay,
When God commands obedience, and
love has led the way."

- Frederick George Scott.