

" THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS MISSIONS." *
By Joseph Hopper

I.

Blessed to be a Blessing to the Whole World.

1. What is the Church?

- a. "Called out"
- b. Visible church "consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion together with their children." Gen. 17:7. Acts 2:39.
- c. Building. Eph. 2:20-22. Mt. 16:18.
- d. Body. Eph. 1:23. Col. 1:18.
- e. Bride. Eph. 5:25-27. Rev. 19:6-9.

2. Church directly related to the Nations.
Gen. 12:1-3. Gen. 22:18.

- 1) Genesis 1-11. Nations helpless in the grip of sin.
- 2) Genesis 12 through Malachi. The development of the promise to Abraham of a Savior from sin, which promise included all the nations of the earth.
- 3) The Gospels. The life, death, and resurrection of the Savior from sin.
- 4) The last command of the Savior to disciple all nations. Mt. 28:18-20. Acts 1:8.

*(In the preparation of these studies much valuable help was received from the writings of M. R. Turnbull, Campbell Morgan, John Greenfield, and Robert E. Speer.)

- 5) Acts and Epistles-The discipling of all the nations.
- 6) Revelation. The nations before the throne in heaven. Rev. 7:9 " -Turnbull

3. Church in the Wilderness. Blessed to be a Blessing.
Exodus 19:4-6.
I Peter 2:5,9.

4. Psalm 67. Blessed to be a Blessing.
God-us-peoples-all.

5. Southern Presbyterian Church-Blessed to be a Blessing.

• Count your Blessings:

- 1) Jesus and the Cross.
- 2) New Testament.
- 3) Religious ancestry and religious liberty for generations.
- 4) Most thoroughly Christian section of Christian America (Bible belt).
- 5) Churches and Sunday schools, and conferences.
- 6) Christian homes and schools and colleges.
- 7) Prosperity.
- 8) Health.
- 9) Talents.
- 10) Missionary opportunity.

(Add to this list)

"THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS MISSIONS."

II.

Our Marching Orders.

1. Matthew 28:18-20.

1) The AUTHORITY of the Great Commission.

"Declared to be the Son of God with power---by the resurrection from the dead, even Jesus Christ our Lord."

Rom. 1:4.

"The first business of the church is to proclaim to the world the authority of the King who came to empire by way of the resurrection." Morgan.

2) What does the Lordship of Christ mean to me?

Five words for "Master" in the New Testament:

- a. Teacher
- b. Leader
- c. Overseer
- d. Owner
- e. Emperor

3) Ian Keith Falconer--an illustration of a true servant of the King.

2. Mark 16:15-16. "The second note of the great evangel is that of carrying to THE WHOLE CREATION the message of healing and renewal."

"The 'kosmos' will be redeemed when man who is the king of the kosmos is regenerate--The sceptre lost by man was regained by Christ."

What a gospel for the atomic age! 2 Peter 3:13.

3. Luke 24:48-49. "Ye are WITNESSES of these things."

"We are to demonstrate in our own lives His redeeming

ability. As far as we are concerned this is the most stupendous note in the missionary commission."

Illustration--Little boy's question in Clinton: Why can't they pay Miss H. a salary just to come here and live?"

4. John 20:21-23. "The fourth note is the declaration of the POSSIBILITY OF FORGIVENESS OF SINS by the unveiling of the Father."

"I believe in the forgiveness of sins."

- 1) Commission "As-so." Sense of mission
Source of mission
The commission was missions.
- 2) Action. "Breathe on me, Breath of God"

3) Impartation. Gift of the Holy Spirit was especially for the carrying out of the Great Commission. A trust and a responsibility to declare the terms of salvation. Open eyes and burning heart needed to carry out commission.

5. Acts 1:8. Last words of Jesus before ascension.
POWER WITNESSES.

Witness: "One who testifies of something he has seen or heard or experienced."

- 1) Place
- 2) Subject. Acts 2:22,36; 3:13; 4:10,12; 5:42; 7:56; 8:35; 9:20; 10:38-41; 13:23; 15:11; 17:2-3; 18:5; 28:31.
- 3) Method
 - a. Lips
Acts 10:34
16:13; 28-34.
 - b. Lives.
Acts 7:58-60.
"If Stephen had not prayed Paul would not have been a preacher."

(Add to this list)

"THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS MISSIONS."

III.

The Dynamic-Power from on High.

"Jesus left His disciples neither comfortless nor helpless. With the marching orders in each case was a clear statement of the dynamic."
Mt. 28:20. Mk. 16:20. Luke 24:49. John 20:21-22. Acts 1:8.

1. Prayer precedes Power.

1) Early Church. Acts 1-Preparation for blessing
Acts 2-Participation in blessing
120--12--3000

2) Zinzendorf and the Moravians. Aug. 13, 1727.

Zinzendorf--4 years old signed the following covenant:

"Dear Savior, do Thou be mine, and I will be Thine."

Leaving college at 16 had 7 praying societies.

Had class of 9 girls between 10 and 13.

At Herrnhut children of both sexes in earnest prayer.

From that community more than 100 missionaries in 25 years.

Life motto of Zinzendorf: "I have one passion, it is Jesus and Jesus only."

Influenced by picture of crucified Jesus and words,

"This I have done for thee; what hast thou done for me?"

Prayer plus Word of the Cross.

Methodists and Moravians--Bible study and prayer.

Two verses suggest secret of success of Zinzendorf:

Zech. 4:6 and Acts 4:31.

3) Korean Revival of 1907--"An appendix to the book of Acts."

"It paid well to have spent several months in prayer for when God gave the Holy Spirit He accomplished more in half a day than all the missionaries together could have accomplished in half a year."

Extraordinary manifestation of Holy Spirit in Pyengyang.
Ordinary means used in preparation.
Fire still burning in Korean Church.

2. What does the Holy Spirit do to make effective witnesses?

1) Reveals Christ to them. John 16:14.

2) Source of remarkable spiritual life. Gal. 5:22-23.

3) Teaches how to use Bible in testifying.
John 14:26 1 Cor. 2:13-14.

4) Gives spirit of boldness. Acts 4:29-31.

3. How may I have the Holy Spirit in His fulness and power?

1) Repent-Acts 2:38.

2) Obey Acts 5:32.

"Take my will and make it Thine
It shall be no longer mine--"

3) Pray-Luke 11:13.

"Lord God, the Holy Ghost,
In this accepted hour,
As on the day of Pentecost,
Descend in all Thy power.

We meet with one accord
In our appointed place,
And wait the promise of our Lord,
The Spirit of all grace.

The young, the old inspire
With wisdom from above;
And give us hearts and tongues of fire,
To pray, and praise, and love."

"THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS MISSIONS."

IV.

The Church Preaching, Teaching, Healing.

Matthew 9:35-10:1.

1. Preaching.

1) Jesus, the matchless Preacher.

Luke 4:18-Preacher, preaching, people, power.

John, chapters 3 and 4, personal preaching.

2) Jesus the Subject of Apostolic Preaching.

Acts 5:42

8:35

9:20

11:20

17:3

3) Jesus-Subject of all effective present-day preaching.

Illustrations: James Inglis

Billy Graham

Korea today

2. Teaching.

1) Jesus, the matchless Teacher.

Isaiah 2:4

Mt. 11:29

John 3:2

Acts 1:1.

a. What He taught-Mark 8:31 Luke 24:45.

b. Why He taught.

"He indoctrinated the dozen that they might evangelize the million."

Teaching has been called "the most prominent function of Christ's active ministry."

2) Teaching in the Early Church.

Acts 2:42

5:42

15:35

17:1-3

18:11

19:8-10

28:30-31

3) Importance of teaching on the mission field today.

"The church that does not educate must abdicate."

Bible classes, institutes, schools, colleges, seminary.

3. Healing.

1) Jesus, the matchless Healer.

Isaiah 53:4-5 Mt. 4:23 9:35.

"God had an only Son, and He gave Him to be a missionary and a physician." David Livingstone.

2) Why did Jesus perform miracles?

a. to relieve suffering

b. to draw multitudes to hear preaching and teaching.

c. to prove His authority. Mt. 9:6 John 20:30-31.

d. to teach spiritual truth.

- Turnbull

3) Luke-a medical missionary

4) Medical Missions today.

Korea an illustration. Missions entered Korea "at the point of the lancet."

Today in Korea: T.B., leprosy, amputees, babies without parents.

"At even ere the sun did set

The sick, O Lord, around Thee lay--

Crying need today for missionary evangelists, teachers, doctors, and nurses.

LORD OF THE HARVEST CALLING FOR LABORERS: "WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?"

"THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS MISSIONS."

V.

The Church, Praying, Penitent, Conquering.

1. Praying.

- 1) Christ, the Head of the Church lives a life of prayer, and He "ever liveth to make intercession for us."

His call to prayer: Matthew 9:36-37.

Four great epochs of His life marked by prayer:

- a. The beginning of His mission. Luke 3:21
- b. Institution of apostleship " 6:12
- c. Transfiguration " 9:29
- d. Gethsemane-"Prelude to victory" " 22:39-46

- 2) In the Apostolic Church-Four distinct outpourings of the Holy Spirit were preceded by prayer:

Acts 1:14
" 4:31
" 8:15
" 10:4

- 3) Early leaders of the Church said: "But we will continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the ministry of the word." Acts 6:4.
- 4) First missionaries to Gentiles were sent forth from a praying church. Acts 13.
- 5) First convert in Europe at a place of prayer.
- 6) Great revivals of history born of prayer and borne by prayer. Billy Graham. Korea.

"When the church sets itself to pray with the same earnestness of purpose as it does to other forms of Christian effort it will see the kingdom of God come with power." Read 2 Chron. 7:14.

2. Penitent.

In letters to seven churches of Asia Minor five churches called upon to repent. Rev. chaps. 2 and 3.

- 1) Ephesus-Lost first love. Repent.
- 2) Smyrna-Persecution. Be faithful
- 3) Pergamum-Wrong teaching Repent.
- 4) Thyatira-Wrong living Repent.
- 5) Sardis. No life. Indifference Repent.
- 6) Philadelphia.Missionary. Open door.
- 7) Laodicea. Lukewarm. Be Zealous Repent.
"Behold, I stand at the door and knock---
He that overcometh I will give--"

3. Conquering.

"The intention to conquer is characteristic of the gospel."

"The church sets out for victory."

"The church is called to conquer, not to compromise."

John 12:31-32 "The Empire of Satan upon Earth and the Destruction of that Empire by the Son of God."

The missionary enterprise is "an assault at once open and direct at the very heart of Satan's citadel."

Rom. 8:37. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors thru him that loved us."

"Who is on the Lord's side? Who will serve the king" who will be His helpers, Other lives to bring? Who will leave the world's side? Who will face the foe? Who is on the Lord's side; Who for Him will go?

By Thy call of mercy, By Thy grace Divine,
We are on the Lord's side, Savior, we are Thine."

My personal, prayerful decision is

Signed,