

Let the Redeemed of the Lord SAY SO!

By Thomas M. Slater, D.D.

In how many different ways does God call, enjoin and entreat Christians to be true to their mission in telling "The wondrous story of Jesus and His Love."

He does this primarily through the inspired words of the Bible where we hear Christ Himself saying, "Ye are my witnesses"; "Ye are the light of the world"; "As ye go, Preach"; "As the Father hath sent me, even so send I you." By His Apostles we are called "Messengers," "Stewards," "Debtors," "Ambassadors." Even if the Bible said nothing about this work we know that the Gospel itself is effulgent as light, pervasive as leaven, out-flowing as a fountain, self-revealing as fragrance, and enkindling as fire. For real salvation changes our attitude toward men as definitely as our attitude toward God.

In addition to the words of the Bible, God has many other witnesses who have spoken faithfully about what we as saved sinners owe to those who are still strangers to the Saviour whom we know. The words of some of these witnesses have appealed to me as so worthy of a still wider hearing. This I am glad to provide, because some words here quoted have been used of the Holy Spirit to work a revolution in my own per-

sonal attitude toward the duty here discussed. And I am sure, dear reader, that the same truths that reached my heart may touch yours also.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID

If your religion is wrong, change it. If it is right, spread it.—*Bishop Whaitley.*

When God would save a man, He does it by way of a man.—*Jeremy Taylor*

Every Christian of every age and calling is appointed as an ambassador for Christ.—*James H. Brooks.*

My obligation to disciple men to Jesus Christ rests upon me, not because I am a clergyman, but because I myself am a disciple.—*Josiah Strong.*

The nearer a soul is to me, the greater the responsibility for it.—*Theodore L. Cuyler.*

This is a lost world. We belong to the Life-saving Service, and it is our business to help seek and save the lost.—*Howard W. Pope.*

If God gave the command to angels to evangelize the world, Heaven would be empty in five minutes.—*Anonymous.*

If we have been forgiven, and know it; then we, and not angels, are commissioned to minister this same salvation unto men.—*Paget Wilkes.*

Our first concern is not to be successful in winning souls, but to be faithful to God's truth.—*Matthew B. Riddle.*

Souls have to be won; and this requires a winning way—a kind of winsomeness—in those who seek them.—*James Stalker.*

There is no other way to win a soul than by seeing in him one whom Christ your Saviour

would have you to win to Him.—*L. W. Munhall.*

We do not need to be preaching in public in order to carry Christ to others. The workshop, the warehouse, the college, and at home will yield us hearers, if our hearts are set on winning men to Christ.—*Alexander Maclaren.*

God often sends the impulse to go and see some very wicked and apparently incorrigible man. That impulse should not be defeated by unbelief in God's power to change such a heart.—*The Pilgrim Teacher.*

While we aim at few, we shall win but few. Our successes shall take their proportion from our faith in the universal law of the service of Christ.—*William Arthur.*

No convert is too recent, too uninstructed, to bring others to Christ. Convinced in his own heart that Jesus is his Saviour, he can, with Philip, at least echo our Lord's own words to say, "Come and see."—*Record of Christian Work.*

I know that it is only *in so far* as I keep a close fellowship with my risen Saviour, that I can in any way be fit for winning souls.—*Alexander M. Mackay.*

No man has ever been a winner of souls who did not know and believe in the Devil. Men are taken captive by him at his will. If we first know that, then we shall know that the victory on Calvary, and the efficacy of the blood of the Son of God, believed and pleaded in prayer, are the only things that will make him give way, and enable us to pluck the prey out of the hand of the mighty.—*Paget Wilkes.*

If we have no concern for the unsaved, and are making no effort in their behalf, we have sin in our own lives. I care not who you are—minister, missionary, Bible teacher, or Christian

worker of any kind—no amount of religious activities of other kinds can exempt us from the charge of having in our heart some sort of sin that is keeping us from this duty. It may be fear, some kind of shame, or just plain neglect. But we know that he who "knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."—*Charles M. Alexander.*

We tell people, "Believe, believe believe," but do not tell them how; do not give them anything definite to believe. The Biblical way is to give them something to believe; for example Isaiah 53:6, and thus hold up Christ crucified. Here is something for faith to rest upon. Faith must have a foundation. Faith cannot float in thin air.—*R. A. Torrey.*

Napoleon, dying on St. Helena, said to his comrades: "When I am dead my spirit will return to France to throb with ceaseless life in new revolutions." What he said was true only in a figure. But the Spirit of our Lord did return literally to the earth after His departure; and through the inspired Word is beginning moral revolutions. When souls are begotten by the Word of Truth, Christ is in a mystical and spiritual sense re-born among men.—*A. J. Gordon.*

When Thou, O Lord, didst die on the cross, Thou didst put the Spirit of Life into Thy Word, and gavest it power to make alive through Thine own dear blood, as Thou Thyself sayest: "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."—*From an old devotional book of the Lollards.*

When we feel the special gracious influences of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, He wonderfully assists us to come at the consciences of

men. Without Him, whatever reason or oratory we employ, we do but make use of stumps instead of hands.—*Dying testimony of David Brainerd.*

WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE

I have never seen a city so completely stirred from center to circumference as the city of Albany was stirred by the word "lost" a few years ago. A child had disappeared from his home. Hundreds of men were ready to join in the search. They scoured the hills and woods. Detectives followed every possible clew. Large sums of money were offered in reward. When at last the lad was rescued from the hands of those who had led him away, there was scarcely a heart that did not utter a note of praise.

The Book tells us that everyone who has failed to make a choice of Christ is lost. Lost to God, lost to holiness, lost to Heaven; and we are unmoved. Surely it must be because we have no realization of this awful distress.—*Edwin F. Hallenbeck.*

Professor Tholuck was remarkably successful in turning wayward youths into right paths. He gives the following account of the growth of this passion for Christ:

"From the age of seventeen I have always asked myself, 'What is the chief end of man's life?' Just then God brought me into contact with a venerable saint who lived in fellowship with Christ, and from that time I have had but one passion, and this is Christ, and Christ alone. Everyone out of Christ I look upon as a fortress which I must storm and win."—*Quoted by Henry M. Tyndall.*

This passion burned in the breast of Rowland

Hill. The people of Wotton called him a madman. This was his defense:

"While I passed along yonder road I saw a gravel pit cave in, and bury three men alive. I hastened to the rescue, and shouted for help until they heard me in the town almost a mile away. No one called me a madman then.

"But when I see destruction about to fall on sinners, and entomb them in the eternal mass of woe, and cry aloud, if perchance they may behold their danger and escape, they say I am beside myself. Perhaps I am, but oh, that all God's children might be thus fired with desire to save their fellows."—*Selected*

It was this that led Shaftsbury to turn aside from the attractions of a brilliant social life that he might minister to the riffraff of London. He literally turned his nights into day, making himself the companion of thieves and harlots that he might win their souls.

This drove Robert McAll from his beautiful English home to the slums of Paris. He was a cultured man, fond of art and letters, but he put these aside and took up his abode amid the moral destitution of the French metropolis that he might point wretched souls to the cross.

Matthew Henry said: "I would think it greater happiness to win one soul for Christ than to gain mountains of gold and silver for myself." Dodderidge cried: "I long for the conversion of souls more sensibly than for anything besides." The sainted Bernard, after years of such toil and sacrifice as have seldom been equaled wrote: "I cared not where or how I lived, if only I could win souls for Christ. While I was asleep I dreamed of these things, when I waked my first thought was of this great work."

In the neighborhood of Poughkeepsie everyone knew of John Vassar whose attainment in worldly things was not conspicuous, but who found recognition as living for the salvation of men. He delighted to call himself "the Shepherd's dog." He would say, "My business is not to preach, but to go over the hills to seek for the sheep that are lost." This was the man's life. To him the lost were his meat. He sought no other joy. He was greedy for opportunities to point the unsaved to Christ. In a Boston hotel he had the courage to approach a fashionably dressed lady with the question of her salvation. This she resented, and reported her experience to her husband who advised her to tell John Vassar to go about his business—to which she was constrained to answer: "Oh, husband, if you had seen that expression upon the face and heard the earnestness with which he spoke, you would have thought it was his business."—*From "Passion for Souls," by Hallenbeck.*

NEED OF A LIFE-RESOLVE

Dr. H. Clay Trumbull, for many years Editor of THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES, testified that he was brought to Christ through a personal letter that was addressed to him on that subject—though he had been brought up in a Christian home—and at the time he received the letter was working in an office along with other Christians, none of whom ever mentioned Christ in his presence. As a new convert he began testifying to one of these associates who answered: "Trumbull, your words cut me to the heart. You little know how they rebuke me. I've long been a professed follower of Christ; and you have never suspected this, though we've been in close association in house and office for years. I've

never said a word to you for the Saviour whom I trust. I've never urged you to trust Him. And here are you, inviting me to come to the Saviour of whom I have been a silent follower for years. May God forgive me for my lack of faithfulness."

Of this incident Dr. Trumbull says: "Then it was that I made a purpose and resolve for life. The purpose I formed was, as an imperative duty, not to fail in my Christian life in the particular way just confessed. I determined that as I loved Christ, and as Christ loved souls, I would press Christ on the individual souls of others, and that whenever I was in such intimacy with a soul as to be justified in choosing my subject of conversation, the theme of themes would have prominence between us, so that I might learn his need, and, if possible, meet it."—*From "Taking Men Alive," by C. G. Trumbull.*

SAYING "YES" TO GOD

This decision of which Dr. Trumbull speaks is essential because here is a form of service into which Christians never drift. I say *never* because it involves a "crisis developing into a process," and is the crux of so many evangelistic problems. So, will you write, date and sign some such statement as this: "Trusting the Lord Jesus Christ for guidance, wisdom and strength, I promise Him to make prayerful concern and daily effort for the unsaved a rule of my life, from now forward."

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