

dence or coldness should cause you to neglect this service, since thereby you slight and dishonor the Lord who bought you.

3. Fail not to be present at every weekly prayer-meeting of the church unless detained by absolute inability to come. I have reason to rejoice over the large attendance and deep interest in this service, but I mourn that there are a few among us who habitually neglect this most important means of grace. Let the New Year witness a renewal of your covenant at this point.

4. Forget not that your first and principal business as a disciple of Christ is to give the Gospel to those who have it not. He who is not a missionary Christian will be a missing Christian when the great day comes for bestowing the rewards of service. Therefore:

5. Ask yourself daily what the Lord would have you do in connection with the work of carrying the news of salvation to the perishing millions. Search carefully whether he would have you go yourself to the heathen if you have the youth and fitness required for the work. Or, if you cannot go in person:

6. Inquire diligently what blood-mortgage there is upon your property in the interest of foreign missions—how much you owe to the heathen, because of what you owe to Christ, for redeeming you with his precious blood. I warn you that it will go hard with you when your Lord comes to reckon with you if he finds your wealth invested in superfluous luxuries or hoarded up in needless accumulations instead of being sacredly devoted to giving the Gospel to the lost.

7. But remember that consecrated giving will be impossible unless there be first a consecrated giver. Therefore I counsel you to seek the special grace and anointing of the Holy Spirit that he may work in you that consecration of heart and life on which so much depends.

Yours in Christ,

A. J. GORDON.

ANNIVERSARY SERMON.

**F**OLLOWING are extracts from the anniversary sermon of Dr. Gordon, preached on the morning of January 6th. After referring to the growth of the church in twenty-five years, Dr. Gordon said:

"It should be asked and answered to what do we owe this blessed increase in numbers and earnestness? and my reply is out of the Scripture: 'Said I not unto thee that if ye believed ye should see the glory of God?' This work of witnessing to the Gospel of the grace of God is a quiet work, and does not manifest itself at once. In the spiritual life as well as the natural life 'we live by pulse-beats and not by spasms;' and the work of the Gospel, like the beating of the heart, is the repetition of the same process over and over again. To some it becomes arduous.

I have sometimes been asked, 'Why do I not preach upon the times?' to which my answer has always been: 'It remains for me to preach for eternity.' As to the force of the repetition of the Gospel, let us remember that continual dropping of water can wear away the hardest stone; and continual droppings of the grace of God can overcome the hardest obstacle. But mark: though the swinging of the pendulum seems monotonous, the hands move steadily up to high noon, and so if we repeat the Gospel we shall see a silent progress until the time comes for the clock to strike, and the word shall go out: 'Time shall be no more.'

In twenty-five years we have never been under the shadow of impending mortgage; finances have been kept so remarkably in hand that I have often asked: 'How do you do it?' I mention some of those who have had this in charge: Charles S. Butler, Charles S. Kendall, and Miles Standish.

Then I remember how in the Superintendent's desk stood that worthy man, Eben Shute, whose absence we are deploring to this day, whose presence was such a

benediction; how worshipping in God's house we have been peculiarly favored with a sexton who has abode with us twenty-five years ever faithful; that the hands that move upon the organ keys were those to make melody when I first came here; how the music has been taken out of a little box and given to the congregation.

But these are only external things, and but an introduction to what I have to say. I wish to speak familiarly. It was perhaps five or six years after I began my ministry here that I became exceedingly cast down over the slow progress that to me appeared to be made in the church, forgetting that the church of Jesus Christ is builded together for an habitation of God for the Spirit. In my discouragement I said: 'Why not let him do it, and let the fact of the presence of Jesus Christ in the midst of the church, and having all power in heaven and earth, prove itself?'

If the Holy Ghost can only have men and women who are willing to be used, there is nothing that cannot be accomplished. Let me publicly say that when I awoke to this fact, and began to preach it and called you to pray about it and put myself into the power of the Holy Ghost, then began the real progress in this church. Luther talked of 'getting God into a corner.' When God gets us into a corner where we cannot turn right or left, then he will show us what he can do.

To return to what has been accomplished. If Mr. and Mrs. Roberts are here, I want to praise God on their behalf that there has been established in this city a work, by which not only have thousands been brought to Christ, but has been copied all over the United States, and for this combination of industry and conversion as shown in the Boston temporary home, I want to thank God. A great number who have been brought into this church can rise up and call this work blessed. And so the work goes.

Mr. Jones began the work among the Chinese. Perhaps this is the best work of the church, having its own missionary in China and twenty-five representatives in

the church, all true as steel, sending out the Gospel to others. One who has been with us has said to me, 'I have been twenty-five years in China. I have visited your work, and you have in Clarendon Street Church as flourishing a mission to China as I had in Hong Kong.'

How shall I speak of the evangelism in missions, the money given or the interest growing up? How shall I speak of the work among the benighted dwellers in our own land, and remind you that the heart of one of our deacons was drawn out to the stained Magdalenes of our city, and that for them a place of refuge has been established? You will hear more of this work later, and I want to thank God for it.

Then just a moment: there were days when we were nearly broken-hearted over the perils of our Congo mission; and in the darkest days our missionary training school was started to prepare humble lay workers or anybody who felt the call, to go. I cannot tell you all about it; you have heard how they have gone out two by two into the destitute parts of New England, where they sometimes find one or two Christians, sometimes no Christians. They have been begged to stay, they have not been able to come back to their studies. You have the way all open to you to reach the ends of the world in these scores of young men and women who have proved that they can go into these communities.

Do not think that I have ever learned the secret that I longed to know—how to exercise the executive talent. All this has been but the simple growth of a tree, a branch here, a little fruit there, not because the tree has any executive talent but because it abides in the earth. Let a church abide in Christ and rest in the Holy Ghost, and all the rest will come as certainly as the green leaf comes in the springtime.

As we begin another quarter century, we do so with full hearts and bowed heads. 'God will not give his glory to another; therefore it is not great preaching, great organizing, great magnificence of architecture; but when we are willing to count all things but loss, when we confess we are nothing and can do nothing, then can we glorify his name. May we remember that the faith was delivered unto the saints, and let it be with us as it was in the beginning, pure; and the Lord bless us all. Amen.'

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