

The King's Highway

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The Missing Link

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The missing link in Christian service is soul winning. Christ commanded his disciples to go and make other disciples. The first concern of Jesus is for the lost. He came into the world to seek and to save that which is lost.

There is a tremendous outlay of effort in behalf of a person who may be lost in the mountains, in a forest or upon an ocean. Volunteers will gladly come forth by the hundreds to join the search by day and by night. No expense is spared that the search may go forward upon the largest possible scale. It is not uncommon for men to risk their lives and even die in the quest of a person who is lost.

There is the challenge of a common interest to find a lost person, whether he be rich or poor, or whether an adult or a child. The fact that a person is lost, regardless of his station in life, arouses a whole community to heroic action. When a child is lost, there is no plea to abandon the search, on the plea that the child is too young and did not know what he was doing when he wandered away from home, nor is the search abandoned on the ground that the child might not stay at home when found. The one concern of the community is to find the lost child. Every nook and corner is scanned. The searchers thread their way to inaccessible woods and jungles. Every conceivable method of search is employed, from bloodhounds to airplanes. A lost child will shake a community from its complacency and stir the people to history-making, heroic action.

A lost soul stirs God and heaven with great concern. God gave heaven's priceless jewel in his well-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, that men might be saved. Angels look on with awe and bewilderment and heart-breaking concern at the sight of a lost soul and they tune their harps for new and fresh praise to God when they see a sinner at the mercy seat of prayer, seeking to return from the far country of sin to the father's house of love and approbation. Jesus taught his disciples that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repenteth.

If earth is so concerned when men may be lost in forests and on oceans, and heaven is so concerned about lost souls, should not Christians likewise be desperately concerned about lost souls? When we are desperately concerned about anything, we do something about it. There is indifference to winning the lost, wherever there is a lack of passion for lost souls.

A basic element in soul winning is expressed

in the words: "Go." We must go to people who are lost and extend to them the invitation to accept Christ as their Saviour. We must not wait for them to come to us but we must go to them.

Another basic element in soul winning is expressed in the word, "Tell." Jesus commanded Mary at the empty tomb, to go tell his disciples. We must tell and continue to tell the story of Jesus and his redemptive love to the lost who are about us.

If the redemptive story that we tell is to be effective, resulting in the salvation of the lost, it must be undergirded with prayer and dependence upon the Holy Spirit for his convicting and regenerating power.

If every Christian would become a soul winner, the missing link of soul winning would be restored, and we would have a revival that would shake the world.

Such a goal will be realized only in proportion as each Christian dedicates himself to the task of winning the lost for Christ. This is the biggest investment that we can make. God has said in his word: "He that winneth souls is wise." The first concern of Jesus for his disciples has been expressed in his own words: "Follow thou me and I will make you fishers of men."

The reward of the soul winner is rich and abundant. The Great Commission Prayer League issues a tract bearing the title "Suppose", which has been circulated by the millions. An introductory statement in the tract says: "Suppose I received a thousand dollars for each soul I won to Christ, would I be winning more souls than I am at present?" The reward of the soul winner is upon a much higher level than a reward of \$1,000 per soul. Jesus evaluated a single soul as beyond the worth of the entire wealth of the world. The reward of the soul winner is beyond any possible estimate in monetary values. It is a reward in the eternal verities of the kingdom of God, where the worth of a soul outweighs the entire wealth of the world.

We need a vast multitude of soul winners today, who will blaze new trails in the paths of salvation across every area and phase of life. People in all walks of life share a common hunger for the deliverance and the peace which only Christ can bring to their souls. There are many who are only waiting for an encouraging word from a Christian to surrender their lives to Christ. You may be the Christian that can speak that encouraging word. We should hail such a privilege and such an opportunity with gratitude and thanksgiving.—The Herald.

The Church and Missions

Rev. Oliver G. Wilson

At the organization of the Christian Church, God gave His servants a world charter, a grant of blessing, to all mankind and set for them a world goal.

"Go into all the world, preach the gospel to every creature."

"Ye shall be witnesses . . . in Jerusalem . . . and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

"Go ye therefore and disciple all nations . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

These New Testament commands are plain and definite. No Christian communion today would deny that the supreme business of the Church is to carry the saving gospel of Christ to all the world.

"Christian Missions," says Glover, "is the proclamation of the Gospel to the unconverted everywhere according to the commands of Christ."

Edmond F. Cook, in *The Missionary Message of the Bible*, says: "Drawing upon the genius of the Bible story, the philosophy of human history, and the experience of men who lived closest to the heartbeat of the nations we discover:

Missions means a passion for humanity.

Missions means a movement to illuminate spiritual darkness.

Missions means telling the Good News.

Missions means making God real.

Missions then is to make Christ known. Make known the Christ who came down, "The Lamb of God," to make atonement for sin. Putting within reach of us all, and all mankind, the Grace that forgives, the Power that regenerates, the Hope that endures, the Truth that makes free, the Fellowship that consoles, inspires, transforms.

This Gospel that we are charged to carry to all the world is a saving power whose length and breadth and height and depth God alone can measure. It is so profound that the giant minds of the centuries have been unable to plumb its depth, yet so simple that the African Bushman can understand and welcome its transforming power.

World evangelism is not an optional enterprise which the Christian Church may or may not undertake. It is a positive command the neglect of which leads toward the sunset of dead hopes and deepening gloom. Obedience to this command studs the nights, however

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