

"The Land Where Jesus Lived," and that gave me a chance to talk about Armenian and Syrian Relief and the request of President Wilson that we should do something for them. This little bunch are ardent admirers of President Wilson, for he has been their friend, and instantly they wanted to take an offering from among the little group of some forty-five who were present that evening. Imagine my surprise when the money was counted to discover that it was the largest sum in the way of an offering that I have seen in any place since starting on this tour and it came from people who are but day-laborers and who live in simple and humble circumstances. The following evening I took them in pictures back to their own homeland of Cho Sen and they were as delighted as little children. They said that they wanted to "chip in" and help to send these pictures of the work being done in their own homeland by the missionaries to the American Christians up and down the coast, so when the offering was counted that evening it was larger (from about 30 Koreans) than the combined offering of the union meeting in the city church which was packed full on the last evening of my program among the American Christians in Dinuba. I noticed, also, that a single donation from the leader among them was larger than any single donation received from any American Christian in any church of any denomination during this past entire year on the coast. I noticed, further, that several of them were wearing Red Cross buttons, being members, and that one young man was wearing a Liberty Bond button and when I expressed some surprise in asking him about it, he replied, "Why, I want to help Uncle Sammy, too."

Well, what do you think about this, now? It seems something like a missionary boomerang that is coming right back here to us from Korea, after casting it over there. I also discovered that though California is the only State in the Union that has no Lord's Day (officially) these Christians refrain from working on the day, save works of absolute necessity and mercy, notwithstanding they have the sad example all around them of American Christians(?) who feel no compunction of conscience for desecrating His day upon very slight pretexts.

THE GOSPEL—PAUL'S ESTIMATE OF IT.

By Rev. C. M. Hutton.

Romans 1:16: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

This is one of the sublime utterances of Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles. It is in such keeping with his usual zeal in behalf of the gospel, that without being told of its authorship, it might be readily recognized as coming from his eloquent tongue.

On many accounts Paul was the grandest man that ever lived. He was a native of Tarsus, a city of Cilicia. He was of Jewish descent, of the tribe of Benjamin. From his father he inherited the rights of Roman citizenship.

Tarsus, his native city, was at that time a grand seat of learning, and a rival of Alexandria. We know not to what extent Paul enjoyed this school of learning; but one thing we know, he was a profound scholar as his epistles abundantly prove. He perhaps was the finest logician that ever lived, not even excepting Aristotle. Hear him as he pleads before Felix, the governor, of sin, of righteousness and judgment till the governor himself trembles before his prisoner and says, "Go thy way for this time. When I have a convenient season,

I will call for thee." Hear him again when he reasons before Herod Agrippa till he is compelled to say, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

Dr. Bentley affirms that as Moses was learned in all the wisdom of Egypt, so Paul was in all the wisdom of Greece. He was brought up at the feet of Gamaliel and was evidently designed for a rabbi. But God had some more important work for him to do. His first appearance in public life was at the martyrdom of Stephen. Now he didn't cast a stone, but as he held the clothes of those who stoned Stephen he was really particeps criminis and as guilty as any. Inflamed with hate he became the foremost persecutor of Christians, entering into every house, haling men and women and committing them to prison. Not satisfied with this destruction of the church at home he procured a commission from the high priest to go to Damascus. But he doesn't reach that metropolis ere a Mighty Hand arrests him. A light from heaven exceeding that of the sun bursts upon him. He was blinded thereby and stricken to the earth. He hears a voice: "Saul! Saul! Why persecutest thou me?" He recognizes it as the voice of Christ, and says: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He is sent just as he was to Ananias. The scales fell from his eyes and he becomes a new man and strikes a different key-note. He says: "What things were given to me I counted but loss. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but lost for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." He says to the Corinthians: "Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel," and again, "I am determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified." He says to the Galatians: "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ," and to the Romans, "I am not ashamed of the gospel." Did ever such a revolution take place in the life and character of a man?

The Gospel—What is It? The word really means "Good News." Was ever such news as this given before that thrilled the hearts of these humble shepherds upon the plains of Judea when the angel announced, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord!" And then how timely was the response of the heavenly throng, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." As sad and afflictive as this life often is, how much more so would it be if deprived of the comforts and blessings of the gospel? See what it has already accomplished towards ameliorating the conditions of mankind! Some lands have been wholly Christianized. For instance, the Sandwich and Fiji Islands were once inhabited only by cannibals. These cannibals have been converted and elevated to a dignified position in society. And it has blunted the knowledge of barbarism in those lands not yet fully Christianized.

See its wonderful effects upon woman. Woman in savage lands is but little better than a beast of burden. Christianity has come in and removed from her the ban of servitude as galling as death and has elevated her to her true position in equality with man as his helpmeet. And woman in turn has ever been a staunch defender of the gospel in all lands. Paul says, "Help those women that labored with me in the gospel." God honored woman in being the first fruits of apostolic labors. When Paul and Silas had responded to the call, "Come over into Macedonia and help us," and had gone down to Philippi, they met a number of women, where "prayer was wont to be made," really where there was an oratorio

or place of prayer, as the single Greek word means. There the Lord opened the heart of Lydia "that she attested unto the things that were spoken of Paul." And God also honored woman in being the first witness of the resurrection of Christ.

Mary Magdalene was early at the tomb and she was at first astounded in finding an empty tomb and the great stone rolled away. She was weeping and saw two angels in white who asked her, "Why weepest thou?" She replied, "Because they have taken away my Lord and I know not where they have laid him." Just then she saw Jesus, but knew not that it was he. He asked her, "Whom seekest thou?" She supposing him to be the gardner, said: "Sir, if thou have borne him hence tell me where thou hast laid him and I will take him away." Jesus then spoke in his familiar voice, "Mary." It was enough; she knew then it was her risen Lord, for his voice was the same she had heard often, so she hurries to communicate the joyful tidings to the disciples.

"Not she with traitorous kiss the Saviour stung,

Not she denied him with unholy tongue;
She, when apostles speak could dangers brave,
Last at the cross and earliest at the grave."

The natives of the earth have begun to have their eyes open to the salutary benefits of the gospel, even apart from salvation. See how their ports are now open to the introduction of the gospel throughout the wide world. Who knows but it may be one of the happy results of this terrible world war?

But this view is only from a human standpoint. We must look beyond and see how it prepares the soul for its heavenly home. The revelations only of an eternal day can show the full benefits of the gospel.

No wonder that Paul says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel." He says, "For it is the power of God." The Greek for that word power is "dunamis," whence comes our English word "dynamite."

Oh, what power there is in dynamite! A fitting figure of the power of the gospel which leads to salvation. Worship never rises higher than when it leads to the salvation of men. But sad to say, all men are not saved, for the reason that all men do not comply with the conditions of salvation. The terms are "Who-soever believeth." "God so loved the world that he gave his only Begotten Son that who-soever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The benefits are first to the Jew and then to the Greek and that means all other nations besides the Jews, as John in his vision saw some out of every nation, people and tongue. Spurgeon never uttered a grander sentiment than when he said: "See what vitality the gospel has! Plunge her in the waves and she comes forth purer for the washing; cast her into the fire and she comes out brighter for the burning; cut her in sunder and each piece makes a separate church; behead her and like the hydra of old, for every head you cut off a hundred spring forth. She cannot die, she must live, for she has the power of God within her."

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Be not anxious about tomorrow. Do today's duty, fight today's temptation, and do not weaken and distract yourself by looking forward to things which you cannot see, and could not understand if you saw them. Enough for you that the God for whom you fight is just and merciful, for He rewardeth every man according to his work.—C. Kingsley.