

## The Great Commission

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## II Its need and adaptedness

## A. Its need

1. It was needed to start the idea of Universal Brotherhood. This <sup>idea</sup> is not natural to the human heart. It runs counter to the ambitions and pride of the carnal mind. The Jew hated the Samaritan; the Greek had a lofty contempt for the Barbarian; and the Roman citizen proudly put the yoke of slavery upon all others.
2. It was needed to stir men to act out this idea. The idea must become a principle, which means an idea with God behind it. It is very popular in many quarters to talk about universal brotherhood by those to whom it is only an idea. The church needs this most positive command of her Lord to keep the idea in her mind and to impel her to obey it.

3. It was needed to save the world. This is a matter of course. I need not stop to portray the world's need. The most patent fact to every observing eye is the fact of universal sin and its consequent suffering. This world is a great shipwreck into which Jesus came to rescue the lost. We who have stood on heathen lands on returning here, to this only nominally Christian land, feel a tremendous change in the moral air we breathe.

4. It was needed to save the church. Yet how what kind of exercise <sup>and discipline</sup> his church needs. It is not simply a question whether the world can be saved if we do not carry the gospel, but can we be saved if we do not ~~disin-~~ engage in this work. I pity the death and barrenness of soul which that church or individual suffers that does not take part in this work.

B. Its Adaptedness

1. ~~How~~ How does the world view it?
  - a. It says it is consummate folly,

(B. 1. a. cont.) The idea of sending a lot of men, many of them unlearned and ignorant, out over the world to simply tell a story of a young Carpenter's life and death and reported resurrection, and to hope that this will revolutionize the world is absurd.

b. ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> says too that it has been a failure. And points to 18 centuries of work and yet the comparative handful of Kus.

2. How do Christians view it?

a. They see that it is the power of God.

By faith they have been let into the secrets of spiritual discernment and they see that both behind and before the preacher, there goes the Spirit. as witness Saul - convicted and Ananias his preacher; the Eunuch, convicted and Philip his preacher, Cornelius convicted and Peter his preacher.

b. They see something of the wisdom of God, though not aspiring to search out all his ways. They see

(1) He is carrying out the plan begun by Xst. Xst returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee. Thus he said "the Spirit of the Lord is upon <sup>me</sup> to bind up the broken hearted etc". He was a great preacher

not because He was the Son of God, but because He was the anointed Son of God.

The disciples were to tarry in Jerusalem till they too should be endued with power from on high. They then went in ret. stead to beseech men to be reconciled to God. Brethren when we go forth in ret. stead we go in His Spirit and we are Christs multiplied to publish His word.

(2) We see too His wisdom in utilizing soul power. The greatest power in the world is not steam, electricity, gravitation or any thing mechanical. It is not even intellectual power, but heart power. And this is the instrument God has chosen by which He means to carry on His work of saving men. Even man—with the thing that is regnant in him—his heart—consecrated to God.

(3) It would seem wise to choose a redeemed soul to publish the good news to his fellows. Angels though they may excel in might, can know nothing of redeeming love, and the blessedness of pardon. Nor could they sympathize with the lost in their suffering condition.

(4) Since God has chosen this method, faith says it must be wisely adapted.

(5) History too approves of it. It is not a failure. When we consider that not only the evil heart, and the world but also hell is against it, and that a thousand years is as a day with God and that the end is not yet, we are not discouraged, but filled with wonder love and praise at the glorious success of His preached word.

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Skeleton of Remarks.  
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