

The Baptist Examiner

A nation-wide, independent paper, standing foursquare for the distinguishing doctrines of Baptists, and shunning not to declare all the counsel of God.

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20).

Vol. 1

MARION, KY., SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1931

Nos. 8 and 9

The Present Day World Call, A Baptist Opportunity

"Come over into Macedonia, and Help Us"

By THE EDITOR

The above Scripture is familiar to nearly every Bible reader. It was God's call to Paul and his companions to enter Europe with the gospel. As surely as this was the call of God to Paul and his companions, so surely is there a divine call today to Baptists. It may not come to us in the exact form that the call came to Paul and his companions; but it comes no less certainly and clearly. We want to study first—

HOW THIS CALL COMES

1. It comes to us through our missionaries.

Our missionaries tell us how eagerly the gospel is grasped by some on foreign soil. They seem to be waiting for the good news, and when it is proclaimed to them they receive it gladly. Others who do not receive it at first, plead that the missionary return and tell them again of the savior. This is as clear a call to Baptists to send the gospel to men in heathen darkness as was the Macedonian call to Paul and his companions. The Macedonian call betokened an open door; a people whom God would make ready to hear the gospel. Do not the reports of our missionaries betoken the same thing? Paul and his companions assuredly gathered that the Lord had called them to preach the gospel in Macedonia. Have we less reason to gather that God is calling us to preach the gospel throughout the world?

As our missionaries see the appalling need in foreign lands, they plead with us for reinforcements. Is there anything in their entreaties to indicate that they present a call from the Lord? We believe so, if their entreaties are for aid in faithfully carrying out the great commission, the marching orders of Christ's churches.

2. It comes to us from those Scriptures that reveal the condition of lost men.

Note the following Scriptures:

"We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness" (1. John 5:19).

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Eph. 4:17, 18).

"The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Cor. 4:4).

Are men in this condition lost? Let the word of God give a clear and unmistakable answer:

"That which may be known of God (that is, as to the fact of his existence and their responsibility to him) is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE: because that, when they knew God they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their im-

aginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Rom. 1:19-21).

"As many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law" (Rom. 2:12). How many have sinned? "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). If this is not enough to convince you that the heathen without the gospel are lost, turn to Rom. 10:13, 14, which says:

"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

What do men in this condition need? They need the gospel, for the gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom. 1:16.) It is the mission of the gospel used by the Holy Spirit "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive the forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith" (Acts 26:18).

"I know the need of the world,
Though it would not have me know;
It would hide its sorrows deep,
Where only God may go.
Yet its secrets it cannot keep,
It tells them awake or asleep,
It tells to all who will heed,
And he who runs may read,
The need of the world I know."

"O Christ is the need of the world
Down under its pride of power,
Down under its lust of greed,
For the joys that last for an hour,
There lies forever its need."

Concern for the need of the world is not to be our primary missionary motive. We will note that in a moment. But as Christ was moved to compassion in behalf of Jerusalem, so the need of the world should touch our hearts. Would to God that from the depth of our hearts we might be able to say:

"World need! World need! World need!
How we feel, dear Lord, the urge of it,
And the swing and the swirl and the surge of it.
The distress of it,
The dire press of it;
And the pall and the thrall and the call
That comes now from the great and the small."

"World need! World need! World need!
We thank thee, dear Lord, for the challenge of it;
For the risk and the reach and the romance of it;
The high hope of it;
The strong cope of it;
For the way and the sway and the stay
That comes with the task for today."