

"Miracles And Missions"

(Mark 16:15-20)

Introduction: Some people say "miracles belong to the planting of christianity, not to its progress and development" - missions are practically the planting of christianity.

I. There is very little difference between Paul at Melita, and Judson in India.

A. In both periods there are similar hindrances to be overcome in the heathen world and similar confirmations of the word are needed to convince the dull sense of men.

B. Hans Egede, the first Evangelical missionary in Greenland.

II. What is the purpose of miracles?

A. miracles may have many purposes -

B. one purpose may be to show God's love and compassion for suffering humanity -

C. But they are not merely for the comfort of the body but for the confirmation of the Word. (Mk. 16:20)

D. the blind man must read his Bible by means of raised letters and through the coarser sense of touch, since he is lacking in eyesight. And what if to the blind pagans, God should be pleased now and then to present the gospel embossed in signs and wonders, if "haply they might feel after Him and find Him" in this way, when they could not at first discern Him with the spiritual understanding."

E. There are numerous theologians who in other cases do not profess to believe in Divine Healing, but will admit that there are today, mentally blunted and degraded people to whom the Word cannot reveal Himself plainly enough by merely spiritual means, and therefore uses bodily and physical signs.

F. We agree that miracles are the signs and not the substance of Christianity, but God does use instances of healing for the furtherance of the Gospel.

III. The awful loathsomeness of heathen sicknesses and the cruel impositions of their witch doctors make us long for them to find Christ as their Healer.
-wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores"

IV. The Great Commission does not forbid these healing signs, but actually demands them.
A. Baptism, sign of Christ's death & resurrection, is in the Commission; and bitter battles have been fought in the Church for its maintenance.
B. And healing the sick, sign of Christ glorified and alive forevermore, is in the commission just as unequivocally.
C. Prayer of Acts. 4:29, 30 for missionaries today.