

ScriptureGram

A brief word from God's Word

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Subject: Foreign Missions

Many may reason ... "if one believes that God will ultimately save ALL, there is no incentive to proclaim the Gospel to others, including those in other nations."

But allow me to share the following from Unsearchable Riches magazine in 1931, reviewing the ministry of Stanley P. Smith who had just died.

"... our brother [Stanley Smith] told us of his call, under the preaching of D.L. Moody in 1875. In 1879 he went to Cambridge University and attained some prominence as stroke of the racing boat. In 1882, after graduation, he taught school. For some time he had been feeling an urge to missionary work, especially China, and succeeded in enlisting six others, who formed the famous 'Cambridge Seven' who left England in 1885 for service in the China Inland Mission.

In the first year he held revival meetings in the north of China, and Shansi province, and then south. The next year the celebrated pastor Hsi joined him in opening a station in Hungtung, where D.E. Hoste, later general director of the C.I.M. also joined him. In 1887 he went to Luan Fu, and was joined by C.T. Studd. He married at this time, but his wife died in 1891. After a furlough, he married, and was sent to visit the C.I.M. stations in the west and southwest of China. At this time he became exercised over the destiny of the wicked, leaning toward annihilation, and later took it up with Hudson Taylor, who was very open to the subject. After much exercise and searching he discovered that the ages are not endless. He immediately informed Hudson Taylor, who decided to take the matter up while both would be in England on furlough. A compromise, much regretted later by Brother Smith, was agreed upon, that he was to hold to his views, but not to make them known. This was not acceptable to some, and later he was asked to withdraw from the C.I.M. He then established an independent work at Tsechowfu, which became one of the marvels of modern missions.

It has been strongly insisted that a man who believes that God is the Saviour of all mankind has no incentive or power for missionary work. Yet the testimony of the very ones who opposed his views proves that he was the best gospel preacher of them all!

After he had accepted this great truth, he launched forth alone and attained remarkable results. We believe that his success was due to the fact that he held the truth and taught it openly." [End of quote from article.]

It would seem to me that those working among "the heathen" would be

most apt to see the fallacy of the traditional church's teachings concerning eternal torment ... what with so many dying all around them in a state of unbelief. But unfortunately not many have been made aware of the true Biblical teachings that God will ultimately save all, due to the strong arm of "orthodoxy." Most biblical teachings outside of the orthodox position are suppressed and not available to most on the mission field. And, as was the case with Stanley Smith, financial support is jeopardized by any who might proclaim the salvation of all.

But there are some exceptions. One that I would bring to your attention is the work of Anthony Esplana in the Philippines. I will share with you in a separate note a synopsis of Anthony's ministry. And I will be happy to hear from those of you knowing of other ministries in nations outside of the USA, where the "full evangel" is being proclaimed.

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- Bob Evelyn -