Convictions in the life of a worker

"We have found the Messiah." (Jn. 1:41) Andrew had found not only the hope of God's Old Testament People, but also the hope of all people in all-time.

Now, ***"To live is Christ"*** (Phil. 1:21) ***"As the Father has sent me, so send I you … into all the world … to every person"***. (Jn. 20:21 and Mt. 24:14)

This is the divine assignment for the church and our marching orders. ***"Neither is there salvation in any other. … I have a stewardship entrusted to me." "The Gospel must first be preached to all nations … then shall the end come."*** (Acts 4:12, 1 Cor. 9:17, Mt. 24:14)

The empowering by the love of the Lord Jesus; the discharge of our duty and calling; the radiation of a reconciling, liberating and transforming force that alone can save and regenerate us; the hope of the return of the Lord Jesus – these are some of the convictions that motivate us.

The worker to whom the Lord Jesus has become a conscious, living reality is gripped by an overwhelming impulse to talk to others about Him. ***"Andrew at once found his brother*** (Peter) ***and said, 'We have found the Messiah' and he brought him to Jesus."*** (Jn. 1:41-42) To such a person as Andrew, Jesus became his very life. To be without Jesus was a living death.

To display no concern for world evangelism and no interest in unreached peoples in this tragic hour of the 21st century with its fading of human hopes, is to unconsciously disclose the poverty of your own spiritual experience. The greatest indictment of the church worldwide and an indication of its lack of spiritual life is its indifference to the cause of evangelism and its lack of commitment to the claim of missions. **Jesus' love constraints, but a lack of love condemns us.**

"Go into all the world … preach the Gospel to every person … be witnesses to Me, beginning in Jerusalem … to the very ends of the earth." (Mk. 16:15 and Acts 1:8)

We have a divine message, a divine commission and a divine urge that makes us, **"Restless with long tarrying and eager for long journeying"**. We need an intensity of purpose, strong intentionality, a spiritual determination to reach out in love to neighbours with open hearts that can embrace all their worries and cares. We are meeting the demands of **a divine mandate**. We know disobedience will have consequences for time and eternity for ourselves and for a host of others. We have a duty to discharge to dying people and we know we are accountable to the Living Lord Jesus.

So the love of Jesus empowers us; the command of Jesus commissions us and the claims of the Gospel compel us. Paul wrote, ***"Serving the Lord with tears and with trials …. I count not my life dear to myself ….. I am become all things to all men; this I do for the Gospel's sake."*** (2 Cor. 2:4; 1 Cor. 9:22) In his life, for the sake of the Gospel, we see truly heroic exertions, incredible suffering, a moving spiritual compassion (***"night and day with tears"***) and a commanding conviction that claimed his all. His life, recorded for us in Scripture, has challenged or indicted believers world-wide ever since.

What was the conviction that compelled? That the Gospel is the ***"Power of God for salvation to everyone who believes … for in it the righteousness of God is revealed."*** (Rom. 1:16) It is for **everyone** who believes **everywhere**. The claims of Jesus were absolute and exclusive. To those who would be saved, the Gospel has but one reply, ***"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ"***. (Rom. 10:13)

Nothing but Jesus – crucified, resurrected and ascended – can meet the depths of human need. This need pressed on Paul from all quarters. In the same way it presses on us as we are daily faced with tragedy, sin, sorrow and hopelessness. ***"I am a debtor … woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel."*** (1 Cor. 9:16) We are under the compulsion of the claims of the Gospel and we are stirred by the dread consequences of ignoring or rejecting it just as Paul was.

So moved by these compelling claims, we are challenged to maximum effort by the sure hope of the return of the Lord Jesus. This waits for the preaching of the Gospel in, "***All the world as a witness to all nations … then the end will come."*** (Mt. 24:14)

So, empowered by love, commanded by Jesus, compelled by the claims of the Gospel and charged with a task that will bring back Our Lord Jesus we press on! In the day of the glory and the triumph of the Lord Jesus we will forget that we ever sacrificed or suffered anything for a King so wonderful, so mighty, so full of glory.

"When I am dying how glad I shall be
That the lamp of my life has been blazed out for Thee!
I shall not mind in whatever I gave,
Labour or money, one sinner to save.

I shall not mind that the way has been rough,
That Thy dear feet led the way was enough.
When I am dying how glad I shall be
That the lamp of my life has been blazed out for Thee"