

The Power and Permanence of the Written Word

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"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write" (Revelation 14:13).

The romance of writing from its crude inception by primitive man is one of humanity's most amazing accomplishments.

Language is a means of communication. Words are the framework by which ideas are conveyed among contemporaries. The written word is the method of preserving our culture and achievements to all succeeding generations.

Scrawled inscriptions discovered by archeologists among the buried ruins of ancient cities are mute but convincing witnesses to the inner compulsion of man to inscribe, to imprint, to engrave, to write his thoughts, ideas and ambitions on imperishable parchments that all who may follow may read and remember.

The book of Revelation, from which the text comes, gives a summation of the triumphs and tragedies of all human history. One of the key words of the book is the word *Write*. From this book we learn that writing did not originate in earth, but in heaven. In time's most awesome hour and before history's most solemn assembly we read, "And the book was open." This last book of the Bible reveals that heavenly scribes have been writing from the foundation of the world.

In the second and third chapters of Revelation we have the letters to the seven churches of Asia. These churches, though designated by particular names, are representative churches of the several periods of the Christian age.

In each case the situation is different. The moral and spiritual conditions evoke a varied message. Sometimes it is a commendation and at other times it is a stern rebuke. But in every case there is one statement that is the same, "Unto the angel of the church. . . write."

In consideration of this injunction to the church in every age we conclude that along with the universal commission to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature that the church is under Divine compulsion to write.

There is no other medium through which the church can more positively mold the character and direct the thinking of the world than through the written word.

The obligation of the Christian scribe is to write, to diagnose the moral and spiritual

state of the church, to analyze the trends of the times, to interpret the task of the church as it relates to the past, present, and future, and to give clear and dynamic directives.

The most priceless legacy left to us by preceding generations are the books they wrote. The great philosophers, poets, kings, prophets, and theologians speak to us from these silent pages. We learn how they lived, we are moved by their tragedies, we are challenged by their triumphs, we are inspired by their courage, we are made strong by their indomitable will. We read how they conquered handicaps and we gather up the fragments of our shattered dreams and try again.

From the pen of the sainted scholar we can determine the spiritual pulse-beat of every past generation and find answers to the problems that plague us now.

The power of the printed page has never been more in evidence than now. Communistic propaganda through the press is capturing the minds of millions. Into every nook and corner of the world attractive communistic leaflets are being circulated with deadly intent and with shocking results are winning converts to the communist camp.

The church stands today at the moment of our greatest crisis and at the hour of our grandest opportunity in the field of writing. At no other time in history has the need been greater, the demand more thunderous, the appeal more intense, and the opportunity more challenging for Christian writers to speak out in clear-cut directives to show to men what they ought to do.

If we would preserve our doctrine, our standards, our history, and our heritage for generations yet to come, we must write. We must publish. We must print. We must record. We must rise to the need of this day with the written word or lose our place in the ranks of the advance guard of Christendom and in the end stand guilty before Him who commanded us to WRITE.