

has accomplished anything like as much for the betterment of humanity as the changed character brought about by the preaching of the Gospel.

I wish that every one of you might read the book by Dr. J. W. Bready entitled, England Before And After Wesley. This book graphically depicts the desperate decadent conditions to which English social life had fallen at the beginning of the eighteenth century. Wesley came preaching salvation through Christ, and urging people of all classes to accept Jesus honestly and earnestly as Savior and Lord. None of his effort was directed toward reform of the social order. Yet, the result of his preaching, as Bready so vividly proves, was that England took the greatest step forward in the improvement of social conditions that has ever occurred in its history.

When men are willing and anxious to present the message of personal salvation through Christ, and when this presentation is not forcibly prevented, these are the effects which occur. Look at the progress which was made in the countries of northern Europe since the Reformation, and contrast the comparative backwardness of the countries of southern Europe, their poverty and their degradation. The reason for the difference is clear. During these centuries, most of the countries of northern Europe have allowed freedom to preach the Gospel, and a significant percentage of people in these nations have come to know Christ as Savior. The resulting improvement in character has shown itself in the betterment of every phase of life. At the time of the Reformation, Spain and Italy were economically and politically ahead of the northern countries. When the work of Martin Luther reached those lands, thousands of people began to show interest in the Gospel. Then the clever and cruel Inquisition pitilessly searched out the men who believed in salvation through faith alone (the Biblical way), destroyed them and burned