

**MISSION STUDIES;
OUTLINES OF
MISSIONARY PRINCIPLES
AND PRACTICE**

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Mission studies; outlines of missionary principles and practice by Edward Pfeiffer

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EDWARD PFEIFFER

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MISSION STUDIES

Outlines of Missionary Principles and Practice

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For Study in School, Church and Home



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PREFACE.

THIS little book has grown out of the necessity placed upon the author and the opportunities that have come to him in his work in the Church. It is the product of some experience in the pastorate and in the class room, the outcome of convictions growing and gradually maturing.

The immediate occasion for the publication was furnished by my outlines and notes, which I have been using for several years in my seminary classes as a basis for a series of lectures and studies in Evangelistics. The irksomeness of dictation and the time consumed in the operation suggested the desirability of being able to place the outlines in complete and printed form in the hands of the students. The purpose, therefore, with which I set out upon the preparation of the work for the press was its use as a text book in my own classes.

Out of this main purpose there grew, in the process of recasting and developing the material in hand, the secondary thought, that by further elaboration of certain parts I might make the work helpful to pastors both in the missionary studies which they ought to continue through life and in the missionary work which they are called upon to perform and direct in their congregations. The pastor as leader and pleader of the Lord's cause and work must, by study and extended reading, deepen the roots and broaden the view of his missionary life. Possibly this little book may prove to some a stimulating and suggestive help in this regard. The author even indulges the hope that at least some parts of the work may adapt themselves for use in mission study classes and young people's societies. If under the leadership of our pastors the young people of their congregations are thoroughly indoctrinated in the leading principles of missions, we may confidently expect a growth of health and breadth of missionary practice.

With these somewhat diverse and yet closely united aims in view, I have endeavored to make the elaboration of my original outlines as largely and broadly useful as possible, at the risk of sacrificing scientific form and appearance. Keeping the condition and needs of our churches before me, I have at once aimed at simplicity and comprehensiveness. Elementary principles and general truths, with copious references and suggestions, are presented in compact form as a basis for further study. If this book fails to supply incentives to further investigation and to continued reading of missionary literature, it fails in its chief purpose.

We ought to realize that this is a life-work for the Christian, both the pastor and the layman. The work of missions is before us and upon us as a pressing call to perpetual labor. The history of missions is an unfinished book, — a growing library, in fact. Beginning with the Acts of the Apostles, an inspired record of apostolic missions, the chronicles of Christian missions extend down to the present day, when current events in mission fields throughout the world are published in innumerable periodicals and books. It is a record of heroic endeavor, of fulfilment of divine promises, of triumphs of the cross of Christ, of realization of the highest ideals of life.

Is the Church in need of defending her faith today? In this day of skepticism and growing infidelity the study of missions affords glimpses of Christian evidences whose arguments are overwhelming and unanswerable. In the pursuit of the study, whether theoretical, along the line of fundamental principles, or historical, in biography and other forms, personal faith is revived, invigorated and enlarged.

As to the merits of this little manual, while I am prepared for criticisms and shall endeavor to profit by them, I only plead that the character and plan of the work be not overlooked. It is not a narrative to be read or to be hastily perused for an hour's entertainment. It is no thrilling story which might hope to sustain interest by recounting events fascinatingly presented. Such stories and monographs exist in large numbers. But here I aim simply at the presentation of missionary principles, more or less elementary, and these in outline only briefly developed, as a basis for the intelli-

gent grasp of the whole subject, as an incentive for progressive study and energetic prosecution of the work.

Among the many works which have been consulted and used and are referred to in the following pages, special acknowledgment is due and is herewith gratefully given to Dr. Warneck's classical work entitled, "Evangelische Missionslehre," from which I have freely gathered valuable material, particularly that pertaining to the ground or basis of mission work. To those who desire to pursue further the scientific and theoretical study of the missionary enterprise this work, which, in point of thoroughness and completeness, surpasses any work that has as yet appeared either in German or in English, is especially recommended.

That this unpretentious manual may be of some service to students, pastors and people in understanding, appreciating, presenting and practicing the great work of missions,—the greatest work which the Lord has given us to do,—this is my hope and my prayer.

E. P.

COLUMBUS, O., August, 1908.

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