

Simpson's work *The Fourfold Gospel* shows four different types, four different pillars of truths about the blessings and fullness that we can in the Gospel, if we are willing to pursue God with everything that we have. Simpson said in his work of *The Fourfold Gospel*, "...there are four messages in the Gospel, which sums up in a very complete way the blessings which Christ has to offer us and which it is especially important that Christians should emphasize today."¹ That was true in 1890 when it was published, and it is still true for today.

I will use this paper will show what those pillars are, according to Simpson himself in *The Fourfold Gospel*. The impact Simpson's creation of the Christian Missionary Alliance has had from their own website. The impact they have had that is still felt to this very day, from their website I will quote some of what they have done. Finally, what our Biblical mission is from the Scripture, Matthew 28:16-20.

Albert Benjamin Simpson, better known to people as A.B. Simpson was born December 15, 1843, in Queens County, Canada. Simpson grew up through high school in Canada, near Prince Edward Island. He received theology and ministry in college in Toronto Canada. Once he finished schooling, he received his ordination in the Canada Presbyterian Church. He pastored a church in Canada before being called, in 1873, to Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1880 he left Kentucky and moved to New York. He came to a belief in

¹ Simpson, A.B. (1890) *The Fourfold Gospel*

believer's baptism, something that we have touched on in this class. The church he was pastoring in New York had differing views, so after talking with them he decided to leave.

The following years were ones of constant movement. Simpson saw all the incoming immigrants, saw their desire of love, he saw their want of an answer, he saw their need for a Savior. He saw, "the neglected peoples of the world with the neglected resources of the church."

² In 1887 he formed The Christian Alliance, a society of believers devoted to experiencing the 'deeper life' in Christ and fulfilling His Great Commission. ³

In 1887, he also started a sermon series called 'The Fourfold Gospel' It outlined what Christ has done, does for us, and what we can do to walk with God through this.

First Simpson starts with *Christ Our Saviour*. ⁴ From Revelations 7:10 he says, "...there is a terror, filling the hearts of men... The Armageddon times will be one of terror and fear, but there is a way to be saved. That is believing in Christ as your Savior. Simpson answers the question, 'What it saves us from.' It takes away the guilt of sin. It saves us from the wrath of God. It delivers us from the curse of the law, from our evil conscience, from our evil heart. It frees us

² William Kostlevy, (2009) *Historical Dictionary of the Holiness Movement*

³ Christian Missionary Alliance, (2021) *Our History*

⁴ Simpson, A.B. (1890) *The Fourfold Gospel*

from the fear of death. Delivers us from Satan's power and kingdom. Finally, and most importantly, it delivers us from eternal death.

It brings to justification in the sight of God. It brings us into the favor and love of God. It gives us a new heart, gives us grace to live day by day. We have help from the Holy Spirit, the care of God's providence, opens the way for all the blessings that follow it. The primary thing that this salvation does is that it gives us eternal life. John 3:16, "...so that whosoever believes in Him, will not perish, but have eternal life."

This beginning, Simpson sets a good foundation on which to continue his series. He has set up who Christ is, what He has done for us, and what it would mean to follow or not follow Him. Over the course of the series, Simpson talks in more depth about Christ and what Christ has done for us.

The next sections talk about, since we now know that Christ is our Savior, Christ being our sanctifier. What it is and is not, how we get sanctification, then practical steps to take in our day-to-day life.

The third sermon explains Christ being our healer. Christ brings divine healing. That can often be misused, we see that throughout history, even into today. Because Simpson knows that it can

be misused or misunderstood, he breaks down what divine healing is and is not. He explains how Jesus is our healer, how He does that.

The final pillar of who Christ is and what the Gospel is. Simpson explains that Christ is our coming Lord. Christ is coming back. We believe that all Scripture is God-breathed and has a reason for existing. Revelation is a book of the Bible that Simpson turns to quite often. It is one of the most misunderstood books of the Scripture. It is different from all other Scripture; it is the strangest in terms of the writing. It has a reason, and that reason is to show that Jesus is coming back. Christ is our coming Lord. Simpson breaks this down with the final pillar, he explains what we mean by Christ's coming. He goes into detail about what Revelation means, what the visuals mean, arguments toward this subject, then what we can learn.

One of the final pieces of the '*Fourfold Gospel*' is, now that we know all this, what do we do with it? We must walk with God and walk with the knowledge we now know and understand. Simpson knew and understood this, so that is one of the reasons he broke away from his church and started the Christian Missionary Alliance.

What would Jesus do? A phrase that has monumental impact throughout generations upon generations. We should act like Jesus acted. Do what Jesus did. The Scriptures tell me that I need more of Him and less of me. What does that truly look like, because it has been watered down over the generations. What did Jesus' walk with God look like?

Simpson went into heavy detail about this because it is so fundamental for our faith. His final takeaway for this section is this, “Finally, let us ask the Holy Spirit whose work it is to make Jesus real to us to unveil the vision and imprint the copy upon our hearts and lives, and so shall we be ‘changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord.’”

⁵Becoming more like Jesus should be our primary mission of our faith.

Then, the last piece of this ginormous puzzle is Simpson’s last portion of the series, that is *Kept*. He knows that many of the people listening to his messages are new to America, immigrants. He knows that this has not been easy, that it has been painful. It might be that he was talking to people, and he learned that the consensus is that “These are great teachings, but we are suffering. Where is God in all this?”

He ends his series with these eleven points. “He will keep us wherever we may go or be. He will keep us as the apple of His eye. He will keep us in His pavilion. He will keep us in perfect peace. He will keep us by His power. He is able to keep us in the world and from evil. He is able to keep us from stumbling. He is able to keep you from the touch of the adversary. He is able to keep His servants and ministers. He will keep His cause, His church, His vineyard. He is able to keep everything that is committed to Him.” ⁶ Simpson breaks all of these down, giving the people hope and a rock to keep faith in. He ends with that final point that God is able to keep everything that is committed to Him, he ends with the question, “How much have we really committed?”

⁵ Simpson, A.B. (1890) *The Fourfold Gospel*

⁶ Simpson, A.B. (1890) *The Fourfold Gospel*

Simpson's vision and mission was quite simple. Go. Go, touch the world with the Good News and make fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. In his hymn, "The Missionary Cry", he writes this, "The Master's coming draweth near. The Son of Man will soon appear, His Kingdom is at hand. But ere that glorious day can be, The Gospel of the Kingdom, we must preach in every land."⁷

I believe that was his goal then, I believe that is the Christian Missionary Alliance over time, and I believe it is our call now. Matthew 28:16-20 says this, "Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"⁸

That is what we are supposed to be. In the takeaways from the *Walk With God* section, Simpson has this to say, "We must study His life until the story is burned into our consciousness and impressed upon our hearts."⁹ Jesus went out, found people completely different from the normal 'religious' person of the day. He taught them about God's love, the suffering that would come by

⁷ Simpson, A.B. (1897) *Hymns of the Christian Life, Numbers One and Two*

⁸ *The New International Version*, (2011) Matthew 28:16-20

⁹ Simpson, A.B. (1890) *The Fourfold Gospel*

following Him, but the glory that will come from it. Then He told them to do the same thing. We need to do that same thing.

This is something that Simpson instilled into the Christian Missionary Alliance and that we still see today. This is from the story page of the Christian Missionary Alliance website. “Local Alliance churches provide the foundation for our worldwide mission through prayer and sacrificial giving to the Great Commission Fund. Since its founding, our North American family of churches has launched over 8,000 missionaries into more than 80 nations. The Alliance mission and vision are rooted in the call to a deeper life in Christ formed during our early days, which continues to fuel our call to “go” wherever and whenever God leads.”¹⁰

In conclusion to this paper, we see who A.B. Simpson was. We see what Simpson desired; we see the mission he was on. We see the steps he took to complete as much of that mission as he could while he was here on this earth. God decided that it was time for him to go home, but what Simpson left behind was a legacy. A legacy to impact the world for Christ, to remind us to go spread the Word of God and all the suffering and glory that it contains to the edges of the earth. I hope that I can be a steward just like Simpson; even when I fail or come up short, I have reliance on God to lift me up and guide me to do better each and every time. That is my desire for whoever reads this paper.

¹⁰ Christian Missionary Alliance, (2021) *Our History*

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