

Church History Sr. 12

power, which may be an excellent thing if its primary purpose is the spread of the gospel, or are they simply, is that the primary thing they are doing or are they really reaching people with the knowledge of salvation through Christ, however they may pronounce the name, whatever form the name may go into in their language. Now as we see the activities of the Roman catholic padres it is to my mind impossible to consider that they were all of them simply men who were supporting a wicked organization. I believe there were many of them who were serving an organization which has been greatly used of Satan to interfere with the progress of the gospel but I do not think that that was true of all by any means of their missionaries or probably of their priests today. Certainly when you think of their missionaries, of some of these Roman catholic padres who went through North and South America going into the jungles, going out into positions of terrific danger and suffering hardship and many of them martyrs in order to spread that which they thought to be right, I do not believe that we can explain it otherwise than that many of them truly believed in Christ even though they may not have understood properly and fully the gospel which they were presenting. It is very interesting to study the history of some of these early missionaries who came out in the area of Arizona and of New Mexico and Southern California who established missions there at great effort and terrific suffering and sacrifice on their part, missions among the Indians in those early days and to see how some of them--one, for instance, was a professor in the university in Oxford and was, came to feel that he should devote his life to the Lord's service and came over to the other side of the world and went among this utterly pagan group of people where he didn't know how long his life would last and toiled back and forth across that territory to bring them all to what he thought was right. I think many of them were real Christians, but I fear their work was done, many of them, with at least a failure to understand the true meaning of the gospel and at least a great many of their successors were men who were trained in a system that is contrary to the real essence of the gospel and the result is that to a very large extent today their work has either disappeared or