

Gospel-Magazine,

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SCRIPTURAL RELIGION.

VOLUME VI. For 1772.

I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST ;
FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION
TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH. ROM. i. 16.

THIS IS LIFE ETERNAL, THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW
THEE THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST
WHOM THOU HAST SENT. JOHN xvii. 3.

L O N D O N :

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M D C C L X X I I .

WE here offer to the public another volume of the GOSPEL MAGAZINE, which we flatter ourselves will not be deemed inferior to any preceding one, either in the variety or usefulness of its contents.

Former prefaces have sufficiently explained the nature and design of this publication; and the encouragement it has met with from christians of various denominations, affords us the utmost reason to believe that it is far from being esteemed an unnecessary or unprofitable performance.

The principles upon which we act continue the same as when we first engaged in this undertaking: our desire of being instrumental, to the utmost of our abilities, in the propagation of evangelical knowledge, is not less ardent now than it was then; nor was there ever more occasion for the friends of real christianity to exert themselves in its defence, than at this period.

Whilst we account it an honour to be ranked in the number of those who contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, and rejoice in this public opportunity of discovering our attachment to the precious doctrines of the everlasting Gospel; it gives us no small degree of pleasure that we at the same time necessarily declare our disapprobation of every sentiment that is inconsistent with the sacred oracles, as well as our utter abhorrence of all those schemes which have been devised to nourish human pride, and eclipse the glory of the grace of God.

Amongst the various abounding errors of the present day, whose alarming spread cannot but affect every pious mind with much concern, there are none which we would more particularly guard against, or more resolutely oppose, than those which strike at the essential deity of the Son of God; since we are perfectly satisfied from the clearest testimonies of the word of God, that it is on that basis, and that alone, the whole superstructure of Christianity rests. Were it possible to strip revelation of that fundamental article of the christian faith, the gospel would no longer exist; it could not convey the glad tidings of salvation to a guilty conscience, nor even administer the least degree of consolation to a sin-strung soul; since every thing therein revealed, respecting the performances of Immanuel, in behalf of his select ones, receives its validity from the proper deity of his wonderful person; and if he is not God as well as man, our faith is vain, our hope is vain, we are yet in our sins, without any ground for encouragement, and totally destitute of the least glimmering of light or comfort.

We are not ignorant that some, who imagine themselves as much superior to others in the knowledge of divine things as they really exceed them in ignorance, pride, and impudence, are indefatigable in their attempts to destroy this important truth, and exert their utmost endeavours to gain proselytes to their antichristian opinions; which they are the more likely to succeed in, because of the love which they profess to God, and their regard for the purity of his word and service; but we like-

wife know that satan can transform himself into an angel of light; and never has a better opportunity of accomplishing his infernal schemes in matters of this nature, than when he assumes the sacred character, and pretends a high veneration for some parts of the gospel; since men are then without any apprehensions of danger, and easily led away by his deceptions. But however obscure the conceptions of the children of God may be in some things, it is absolutely impossible that any, who have known the grace of God in truth, should embrace this sentiment, or ever entertain a thought so greatly derogatory to the Lord of life and glory.

Inseparably connected with the divinity of Christ Jesus, and equally necessary to the comfort and stability of the believing soul, are, the propriety of his atonement, the fulness of his salvation, the perfection of his righteousness, the eternity and immutability of his love, the sufficiency and invincible efficacy of his omnipotent grace; nor are the doctrines of particular election, particular redemption, and final perseverance, less productive of real consolation in the christian's breast, or less clearly supported by the word of God.

These doctrines, from a full conviction of their being founded in truth, and from a happy experience of the inexpressible pleasure which a cordial reception of them produces in the soul, we are determined ever to maintain; and rejoice, that while all the stores of ridicule and banter, of contempt and enmity, are exhausted to render them odious in the eyes of the world, there are many who are not ashamed thus publicly to defend and support them.

It cannot be expected that, amongst such a variety of correspondents as are engaged in this work, a perfect agreement in every punctilio should be met with, though we hope, in the grand fundamental articles of our religion, a strict uniformity will be found.

It is not intended that the Gospel Magazine should be as a field of battle for the different denominations of christians to engage in; we would rather wish them to forget their differences, and unite their strongest efforts against the common enemies of the gospel.—That while the self-sufficient proud Arminian and the blaspheming Arian are striving to triumph over the truth as it is in Jesus, those who really love his name may, by scriptural arguments and in a scriptural manner, refute their daring bold assertions, and, so far as is in their power, stem the torrent of their pernicious errors.—In this employ the Pædo and the Antipædo-baptist, the Supra and the Sublapsarian, the Episcopalian and the Independent, *may*, and we hope *will*, cheerfully engage, since the cause is not the concern of one party, but of christians in general as such, whatever names they may be known by.

We cannot conclude without acknowledging the favours of our correspondents, who have contributed to our assistance thro' the last year, and expressing our desire that they will still continue their laudable attempts for the glory of our God and the edification of his people.