

D. A. DOWNEY
THE

Gospel-Magazine,

OR

SPIRITUAL LIBRARY,

DESIGNED TO PROMOTE

SCRIPTURAL RELIGION.

VOLUME VIII. FOR 1773.

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 I .

TO THE
R E A D E R.

WE rejoice to find that, in the work in which we are engaged, so many of our readers have expressed their intire satisfaction. Our undertaking is arduous: the subjects, on which we are called to enter, are difficult, being the great MYSTERIES of the GOSPEL of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. Different apprehensions of the same truths may sometimes be found even amongst those who are of the household of faith: it cannot therefore be expected that every piece should be equally acceptable to all our readers: nay, we have sometimes observed, that those pieces, which have been best received by the most, have been complained of by a few of our friends. This we look upon as an unavoidable infelicity, which we dare not promise to remove, because it is not in our power. Nevertheless, we could wish to insert nothing but what would be acceptable to all who love the Lord JESUS CHRIST in sincerity and truth.

We beg our readers to remember, that if any thing is admitted into our MAGAZINE inconsistent with those truths we have held forth from the beginning, it is not out of regard to any man, or any set of men whatsoever, but rather to engage some of our worthy correspondents to reconsider and investigate the subject, and to set it in a clearer light. With this view, some letters have been inserted concerning the work of the SPIRIT in regeneration, sanctification, and consolation, which may seem to favour somewhat of a party spirit lately

lately sprung up amongst us: but this has been the happy means of stirring up some to give us their free thoughts upon those important points, and in fact has tended to shew the weakness of every attempt to subvert the truth as it is in **JESUS**.

“ *Magna est veritas, et prævalebit.*”

Much the same may be said as to some pieces on the nature of saving faith, some of which seem to deny the existence of it as a living principle in the heart, and others to prevent its various actings upon the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** as its immediate object in our approach to God, or our daily converse with him. Various answers have been given by persons of different abilities, expressing themselves in their own way; which pleasing variety, we trust, hath had its use, being adapted partly to the weaker, and partly to the stronger Christian, and both, in their measure, tending to make the man of God perfect, throughly furnished in every good work.

We have only to add, next to our thanksgivings to God, our grateful acknowledgments to his people of all denominations, that a **GOSPEL MAGAZINE**, calculated to defend the peculiar doctrines of **CHRIST**, should meet with such considerable success in these degenerate days. Our readers may rest assured, that neither pains nor expence shall be wanting to render it still more worthy of general encouragement, and still better adapted to promote true religion in heart and life.

Jan. 5, 1774.