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P R E F A C E.

THE vast inundation of frippery issuing from the pulpit and the press, at the present day, calls upon every real disciple of the Son of God to exert their influence, for the purpose of maintaining the grand doctrines of the Gospel, against those who rashly endeavour to explain away, or to disfigure those truths, which it is the design of the Gospel to set forth.

The leading article which we have been enabled to hold forth in our Journal, for some years past, is simply a discovery of free salvation, through the righteousness and blood of Christ, a system the very soul and substance both of the Law and the Prophets. The moral law points us to the Son of God, as obeying for our justification. The ceremonial law exhibits the same glorious Person as dying for our offences. To him gave all the prophets witness, that whosoever believeth on his name shall receive forgiveness of sins.

And not only did the Prophets, and the Law, and Moses, and Enoch, and Noah, and Abraham, testify of Christ, but we also find in those precious records, that the Son of God testified of himself to our first parents 4004 years before his manifestation in the flesh.

Indeed the Gospel we bring forward from month to month is not what some mistaken people suppose a new thing, or that it took its rise from the birth of Christ, and that the religion of Jesus is no more than 1800 years old. The planet which we inhabit has been called into existence 5806 years; but on the decree and consequent fore-knowledge of Christ's future redemption, a kingdom of glory was prepared for his people from the beginning of the world. The covenant scheme, the plan of salvation by Christ, is older, yea, infinitely older, than the creation. It is literally without date. It is eternal as the Trinity themselves. It knew no beginning, and will have no end.

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These gradual displays of Christ have reached our time; and if our eyes are not blinded, and we led captive, so as to be involved in the darkness of error, and bewildered in its own perversions, we shall rejoice in the Divine Mysteries, and lay low at the Divine footstool, in adoring gratitude for discriminating grace, and in calling us to the knowledge of the truth, while others have been left in the darkness of nature.

Upon this broad basis has the GOSPEL MAGAZINE been carried on, in the midst of much opposition, even by men of a religious cast, and by some under the character of Evangelical Ministers. They have repeatedly told us, that such sentiments should never be mentioned. Repentance and Faith, say these Gentlemen, are fully sufficient to convey every adequate idea of Christianity, and that stepping beyond these bounderies, they impiously assert, is splitting of hairs in divinity, and annihilating good works.

Such soul-distressing and God-dishonouring preaching is the theme of too many teachers who ought to know better. They keep the people from the tree of life, where fruit is for the healing of the nations, and, under a specious delusion of promoting holiness, they bolster up hypocrites, and wrap them in a phariseical mantle. In contemplating those doctrines we stand up for, particularly that sublime mystery of election, our blessed Lord and Saviour, in the days of his flesh, rejoiced in spirit; he could thank the Father for that which these men keep back in their ministrations, and which Arminians blaspheme at, namely, in calling some to the knowledge of the truth, and leaving others to perish in their sins and wickedness.

We commit our readers and ourselves to the care and protection of the triune God, Father, Son, and Spirit, beseeching them to fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

