

THE
GOSPEL MAGAZINE

AND

PROTESTANT BEACON.

“COMFORT YE, COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE, SAITH YOUR GOD.”

“ENDEAVOURING TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.”

“JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TO-DAY, AND FOR EVER.” “WHOM TO
KNOW IS LIFE ETERNAL.”

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P R E F A C E .

THE GOSPEL MAGAZINE, originated in the earlier part of the second half of the *eighteenth* Century (1766), and after uninterrupted monthly issues throughout the *nineteenth* Century, has now, through the special favour of our Covenant-keeping GOD, completed its first volume in the *twentieth* Century. Apart from all fleshly boasting, and ingratitude to the LORD, we record these remarkable facts, believing that of no other religious Magazine published to-day in England can a parallel statement be made. The *Arminian Magazine*, and other monthly contemporaries in the earlier stages of the history of our venerable publication, have long since passed away.

The GOSPEL MAGAZINE has uncompromisingly sought to maintain the whole counsel of GOD, through good report and evil report; and under His approving smile it continues to go forward on the old lines.

The very same gracious, soul-saving, and soul-satisfying truths which, in its Eighteenth Century pages, were distinctively taught by TOPLADY, BERRIDGE, and many of their faithful Evangelical and Protestant fellow-witnesses, are at the outset of this, the Twentieth Century upheld by its writers and loved by its readers. The supporters of this free-grace publication recognize no Scriptural alternative for a true and constant following in "the footsteps of the flock." They do not believe that the Word of their GOD and the sublime Gospel verities it reveals are subject to any change, or are in any sense affected by "the course of this world," by the opinions of "this present evil age," by the boasted "Higher Criticism" of the pundits of present-day academical divinity, or by the oppositions of "science"—falsely so called. They continue to ask for the old paths and for the good way. Those paths they find to be pleasant, and that way to be one of peace and safety. They know not, and desire not to know, the voice of "strangers." The voice of their WELL-BELOVED—that they know, and that alone they delight to hear. The HOLY SPIRIT attunes their ears and hearts to recognize that voice amid the din of competing leaders, and guides, and interpreters, and to detect and reject the false teaching of the latter days.

To the hungry soul erroneous doctrine is as bitter ashes to the taste. When the Pulpit, or the Press, becomes a fountain of

heresy, its specious tenets deceive not the chosen people of God, or at most but temporarily. As JOB has said, "Doth not the ear try words? and the mouth taste his meat?" (Job xii. 11.) Those who have *tasted* that the LORD is "gracious" turn away, by holy instinct, from all human substitutes. Were it possible for an angel from heaven to bring any other Gospel to such, he would be sternly rejected, and denounced as a messenger of lies and a false witness before GOD! Between the heart of a well-taught believer and his adorable LORD and SAVIOUR there is an inviolable unity of mind. When the LORD JESUS speaks to the heart by the Word of grace and truth, a responsive chord is touched—and only when *He* speaks! We lately met with the following incident, narrated by an American writer:—A harp stood in a room, when a clock at midnight, in a neighbouring belfry, struck one. One solitary chord, out of many, vibrated; one note sounded; for but one chord in the harp was in unison with the note of the bell. This natural phenomenon illustrates the spiritual truth under our notice. Again and again we have the joy of receiving assurances from the scattered readers of this MAGAZINE that GOD speaks to their souls through its agency with power and unction. Their hearts, prepared and tuned by the HOLY GHOST, respond believingly to the blessed Covenant verities provided month after month by Him who has promised His own that, even in times of spiritual famine, they shall have enough (Psalm xxxiii. 18, 19).

Such assurances as those referred to are to the hearts of the LORD's servants very grateful—a very precious reward and recompense. We share these fruits of labour with our esteemed fellow-workers who contribute articles for our pages. For, the burden of providing green pastures for the blood-bought flock who find holy satisfaction in the truths we publish would indeed be too onerous were it not thus lovingly lightened. We take the present opportunity of thanking both those who write for the MAGAZINE and those who assure us that they derive spiritual help through its means; and we beg continued interest in their prayers.

The Editorial service to which we have been providentially called makes special and great demands upon mind, heart, and time. Nor these only. Faith is often sorely put to it. Spiritual supplies are sometimes to be obtained only after much waiting at the throne of grace in fervent supplication. If the sower is to scatter "precious seed," he must first have his basket filled with it, and *that*—if "the LORD of the harvest" so will it—only after much prayerful "going forth," and much spiritual "weeping."

THE EDITOR.

December 1st, 1901.