

PREFACE.

“GREAT is His mercy toward them that fear Him.” These words express our feelings as we sit down to write the Preface to the one hundred and fifty-eighth volume of THE GOSPEL MAGAZINE. It is of the LORD’S mercy that this Magazine continues to hold on its way. It is of His mercy that the Editor and his kind helpers have been enabled to bear testimony in its pages to the great doctrines of grace for which this Magazine stands. It is of His mercy that these truths are welcomed by our readers. It is of His mercy that they bring comfort and consolation and strength to His people. Although it greatly cheers our hearts to be continually receiving testimonies from our readers to the help and blessing which the Magazine brings to them, we desire to remember, and to own unreservedly, that it is the LORD alone Who gives enabling grace for the testimony which is borne. Our many kind writers have nothing which they did not receive. We desire, therefore, to glory, not in ourselves, but in the LORD of Whom and by Whom are all things.

On behalf of the Trustees we warmly thank all our kind helpers who have regularly contributed articles during the past year. Their work is a labour of love, and the many letters we receive show how much it is valued.

We would also warmly thank our publisher for his

warm-hearted devotion to the work of the Magazine. There is a great deal more work in connection with the publishing of a monthly Magazine like ours than many people imagine.

The Trustees are very grateful indeed to our many readers, rich and poor, who regularly contribute of their substance for this important work. The need for such regular financial help continues great. The balance sheet for the year 1922 showed that there was a deficit of £58 7s. 3d. We do not know yet how things stand for the year 1923, but we ask our readers regularly to pray that the LORD may fully supply our needs. A Magazine like ours does not appeal to the crowd, and therefore it needs special and regular support.

The year now drawing to a close has given fresh evidence that we are living in those latter times when many are departing from the faith. Liberal Evangelicals have come more into the open. A new series of forty-five pamphlets, setting forth their modernistic views, is now being published, and every effort is being made to influence those who profess Evangelical principles to imbibe the pernicious teaching for which Liberal Evangelicalism stands.

Anglo-Catholicism, too, has become more and more bold, and the proposals to permit the use of Mass Vestments, the Reservation of the Sacrament, and prayers for the dead in the Church of England, indicate how the leaven of error is exercising its baneful influence. In the LORD'S Name, we who are responsible

for THE GOSPEL MAGAZINE humbly seek to take our stand on the full inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures, the eternal love of GOD the FATHER for the elect objects of His mercy, the redeeming and substitutionary work of GOD the SON, and the sovereign, regenerating, and sanctifying operations of GOD the HOLY GHOST. To us Arminianism, Sacerdotalism, and Modernism are alike unscriptural, and we feel bound to bear testimony against them.

For this great work we bespeak the regular prayers of our readers, and to all our readers at home and abroad we send our warm Christian greetings and best wishes.

THE EDITOR

(Thomas Houghton).

*Whitington Vicarage,
Stoke Ferry, Norfolk.
November 14th, 1923.*