

PREFACE.

BY the great mercy of our Covenant-keeping GOD we are permitted to write the Preface of the one hundred and fifty-ninth volume of the GOSPEL MAGAZINE. To Him be all the glory for keeping alive this testimony to His truth for so long a period. May He still display His power in this respect, and may this monthly visitor to the homes of large numbers of GOD'S scattered people be an increasing help and comfort to those who have tasted that the LORD is gracious.

We are thankful to be able to record that the Magazine is maintaining its ground, and that for several years there has been a gradual rise in its circulation. We hope that all our readers will use their influence to extend its usefulness. We are continually being cheered by written and verbal testimonies to the help which its pages bring, by GOD'S blessing, to our regular subscribers. Our constant prayer is that the teaching of the Magazine may at all times be thoroughly sound and scriptural. We realize that the LORD alone can by His SPIRIT open our understandings that we may really and truly understand the Scriptures. By His enabling grace we desire to hold fast the pure Word of GOD, and to hold forth the Word of life. Apostasy from GOD'S pure truth seems to be increasing on every hand. Arminianism, Sacerdotalism, and Modernism abound. It is a rare thing to hear the pure Gospel of the grace of GOD. Judging from what we read and sometimes

hear, the great and eternal Covenant of grace might have no existence. The theology of the day ignores large tracts of Scripture truth, and thus perverts the Gospel revealed in the inspired Word. Every preacher of the Gospel should preach the whole counsel of GOD, albeit he should proclaim it graciously, lovingly, and in humble dependence on the power of the HOLY GHOST. The Gospel of GOD as revealed in the inspired and infallible Scriptures is the *eternal* Gospel. It alone is the means which the SPIRIT uses to gather out a people for GOD's name. Nothing should be added to it, nor aught taken from it. Our prayer is that the GOSPEL MAGAZINE may ever be true to the Gospel which originated with the triune JEHOVAH, and which is fully revealed in the inspired writings of the Old and New Testaments.

On behalf of the Trustees we warmly thank all our kind contributors to the pages of the Magazine. Their help is regularly and freely given, and they are rewarded by the knowledge that their testimony is not in vain in the LORD. We also warmly thank our publisher and his assistants for the heartiness and devotion with which they carry out the onerous work assigned to them. The warm gratitude of the Trustees is also extended to our many friends, both rich and poor, who so regularly contribute to the GOSPEL MAGAZINE Fund. Without such generous aid the Magazine could not have been kept going. We praise GOD for thus providing for the financial needs of the Magazine.

Our hearts were greatly solemnized during the year

by the news of the serious illness and subsequent death of one of the oldest of our Trustees—Mr. John E. Hazelton. He had a warm place in our hearts, and we feel keenly his removal from our midst. Many, too, of our valued readers have also been called Home during the year. Heaven is, indeed, the richer for their presence there, but earth is the poorer for their absence from our midst. However, “The night is far spent” and “the Day is at hand.” “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” Beyond all the present clouds is “the appearing of the glory of our great GOD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.” We may, therefore, “rejoice in hope of the glory of GOD.”

To all our readers, both at home and abroad, we send warm Christian greetings. May the blessing of the LORD be our abundant portion. “Brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the LORD may have free course, and be glorified.”

THE EDITOR

(*Thomas Houghton*).

Whitington Vicarage,

Stoke Ferry, Norfolk.

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