

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.”

VOL. LXIV.—NEW SERIES.

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PREFACE.

GRATITUDE to GOD for all His manifold mercies, in connection with the issue of the *one hundred and sixty-fourth volume* of the GOSPEL MAGAZINE, is one of the prominent thoughts in our mind as we pen this preface. We praise Him for His enabling grace to us, and to all the kind friends who have contributed to its pages month by month. We are more and more made to realize that without Him we could do nothing. We praise Him for the many cheering testimonies to the value of the Magazine which we have received from readers far and near.

We praise Him for the continued supply of our financial needs in reference to the publication of the Magazine, as revealed in the balance sheet for 1928.

We praise Him for the many readers, rich and poor alike, who have continued to contribute to the GOSPEL MAGAZINE Fund. Without this help this testimony to the doctrines of grace would have to come to an end. The Trustees are all very grateful for this continued support.

We praise Him, too, for new readers who in some measure replace those who have been called Home.

The LORD has thus been mindful of us during another year, and we are assured that He will still bless us.

The growth of apostasy from the old truths makes us realize that our Magazine is not a popular publication. The late Mr. C. H. Spurgeon says in his sermon (No. 1045), "If there is one doctrine in the world which reveals the enmity of the human heart more than another it is the doctrine of GOD'S sovereignty. Men will bear with you unto that word, but when they hear the LORD'S voice saying, 'I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion,' they gnash their teeth and call the preacher an Antinomian, a High Calvinist, or some other hard name. They do not love GOD except they can make Him a little GOD; they cannot bear for Him to be supreme, they would take His will away from Him and set up their own will as the first cause." As we humbly stand for GOD'S sovereignty, and for all the great doctrines of grace, we can hardly expect popularity. We trust that these truths are brought before our readers in a gracious and loving manner and in due proportion. Nevertheless we know they are secretly and sometimes openly resented.

The LORD, however, is able to use us, and make our testimony, in an increasing degree, a mighty means of blessing to many. The Magazine is a *Gospel Magazine*, and we pray that the Gospel therein set forth may prove the power of GOD unto the salvation of many, as well as being the means of building up a large remnant of His scattered people.

Let us unite in earnest and regular prayer to that end.

Our publisher will always be ready to send specimen copies to likely new subscribers. We hope our readers will join us in endeavouring to increase the circulation.

Our warm Christian greetings to all our readers in distant lands and at home.

THE EDITOR
(Thomas Houghton).

*Whittington Vicarage,
Stoke Ferry, King's Lynn.
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