

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. LXVI.—NEW SERIES.

London :

B. S. TAYLOR, 23, BEDFORD STREET, STRAND, W.C.2.

1931

PREFACE.

IT is a matter of great gratitude to our Covenant God that He still keeps alive this time-honoured Magazine. The great and precious Gospel truths for which it stands need to be proclaimed with increasing faithfulness. The great doctrines of grace are the truths set forth in the Bible. They were taught by Augustine in the fourth century, and by Luther and Calvin in the sixteenth century. They are enshrined in the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, and in the Westminster Confession of Faith. Mr. W. H. Beckett, in his book *The Reformation in England*, says of the Reformers generally that their "teaching was Calvinistic, or more properly, Augustinianism" (p. 191). The late Bishop J. C. Ryle says, "The vast majority of all churchmen in that day (the reigns of Elizabeth and James I) held the doctrines which are called Calvinistic and Evangelical." Again, he says that it is "a historical fact, that all the leading Archbishops and Bishops in the reigns of Elizabeth and James the First were thorough Calvinists in matters of doctrine" (*Old Paths*, pp. 518, 520).

The leading preachers in the great Evangelical Revival of the eighteenth century were also men who believed in the great doctrines of grace. In fact, no preaching of the Gospel can be regarded as fully Biblical which is not based on God's eternal love for His people, His choice of them before the foundation

of the world, His redemption of them by the obedience unto death of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His mercy in calling and justifying them, not according to their works, but according to His own purpose and grace (see 2 Tim. i. 9).

In seeking to set forth these and other truths in due proportion and without bitterness or malice towards those who may differ from us, we trust we are walking according to the mind of God, and in the footsteps of our Lord and His apostles.

These truths are now almost universally rejected, which to us is a sign of the times, and an evidence of the increasing apostasy from the pure truth of the Word of God.

The year now closing has been remarkable for utterances in high places in the Church of England against the continued subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles by candidates for ordination. This attack on the Articles is not only due to their anti-Romish and anti-Modernistic character, but also to their opposition to Arminian doctrines.

It becomes all the more necessary for all who love the great truths of the Gospel to stand fast in the old faith, and to resist firmly and courteously every attempt to minimize the great truths of the Word of God.

To do this in the pages of the Magazine needs the grace, wisdom, and unction which come from above. We bespeak therefore the constant prayers of all our

readers for ourselves, and for those who very kindly and regularly help us in this work.

The Trustees of this Magazine are exceedingly grateful to the many readers who so kindly, liberally, and regularly contribute to the GOSPEL MAGAZINE Fund. We trust that such help will be continued.

We would again express the earnest hope that all our readers at home and abroad will do what is possible to secure more subscribers to the Magazine. Our hearts are often cheered by testimonies to its usefulness.

In conclusion we send our warm Christian greetings to all our readers at home and in distant lands.

May the Lord's goodness and mercy be abundantly extended to us all.

THE EDITOR
(*Thomas Houghton*).

*Whitington Vicarage,
Stoke Ferry, King's Lynn.
November 13th, 1931.*