

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. LXVII.—NEW SERIES.

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PREFACE.

TOPLADY, the author of the well-known hymn, "Rock of Ages," was for a time the Editor of this Magazine. The volume for the year 1776 lies before us, and on page 131 Toplady's hymn, "Rock of Ages," appears and is headed, "A Living and Dying Prayer for the Holiest Believer in the World."

Amongst his many other works Toplady wrote the *Historic Proof of the Doctrinal Calvinism of the Church of England*, and in reference to that book the late Bishop Ryle wrote, "The book remains to this hour unanswered, and that for the simplest of all reasons, that it is unanswerable. It proves irrefragably, whether men like it or not, that Calvinism is the doctrine of the Church of England, and that all her leading divines, until Laud's time, were Calvinists" (*Christian Leaders of the Eighteenth Century*, p. 380). The Bishop in the same book (p. 379) wrote, "I believe that Calvinistic divinity is the divinity of the Bible, of Augustine, and of the Thirty-nine Articles of my own Church, and of the Scotch Confession of Faith."

This is the divinity for which the GOSPEL MAGAZINE stands. We believe that the Gospel of the grace of God, as revealed in the Bible, cannot be fully preached unless it is fully recognized that God hath saved and called His people, not according to their works, but

according to His own purpose and grace, given them in Christ Jesus before the world began (see 2 Tim. i. 9). In other words, the salvation of fallen sinners was purposed by the Father in eternal times, was secured by the substitutionary obedience and death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and is communicated by God the Holy Ghost, Who is the Sanctifier of "all the elect people of God."

We do not favour a harsh and forbidding setting forth of these truths, but we believe that no gracious and Spirit-taught minister should be ashamed of them. They were held by such men as Whitefield, Toplady, Berridge and Romaine. They were held by Bunyan and the Puritan divines. They were held by such men as Bishop Waldegrave, Dean Close and Dean Law, and many other men of God, such as the famous preacher C. H. Spurgeon. They are still the doctrines of the Bible and of the Reformed Confessions of Faith. Sad to say, very few now hold these old Biblical, Gospel, precious and comforting truths. That only proves how degeneration has set in, and how seriously the professing Church has departed from "the faith once delivered to the saints."

Let us pray that by God's grace and mercy the GOSPEL MAGAZINE may ever stand for these great truths. The volume of this Magazine completed by the issue for December, 1932, is *the one hundred and sixty-seventh volume of this the oldest religious magazine*. We thank God that it has been kept in being all these years, and we warmly thank our kind fellow-writers

for their constant and helpful contributions during another year. The Trustees also very gratefully acknowledge the liberal contributions to the GOSPEL MAGAZINE Fund, by which they are enabled to continue sending forth this testimony to all lovers of the doctrines of grace.

We earnestly bespeak the prayers of our readers that God may still send the financial help needed, and that He will endow all who contribute to the Magazine with increasing grace and wisdom, so that the testimony given may be increasingly profitable to the Lord's people who read its pages.

We long much for an ever-increasing circulation, and we urge all our readers to do all they can to induce others to become subscribers.

We are much cheered by the testimonies we receive from readers at home and abroad, and we warmly send to all our readers our affectionate greetings and good wishes. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (1 Cor. xvi. 13).

THE EDITOR
(*Thomas Houghton*).

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