

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.”

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VOL. LXXI.—NEW SERIES.

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London :

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

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1936

## PREFACE.

THE December issue of the GOSPEL MAGAZINE for 1936, completes the *one hundred and seventy-first year* of the existence of this publication. In the language of one of its highly esteemed Editors (the late Rev. James Ormiston), it "occupies the unique position in the field of Religious Periodical Literature, of being the *oldest* magazine published in England." That it should have continued so long is a cause of devout gratitude to God. The Magazine, as all our readers know, is published in the interests of the great doctrines of grace, and of the great principles of the Reformers, the Puritans, and our great Evangelical fathers. It is a *Gospel Magazine*, and we feel that the Gospel cannot be fully set forth unless it is recognized that it is the outcome of God's electing love, and of His Own purpose and grace given in Christ Jesus before the world began.

The Magazine stands for such great truths as Election, Particular Redemption, Human Inability, Total Depravity, Regeneration by God the Holy Ghost, Justification through the Imputed Righteousness of Christ, Eternal Security, and the Final Glorification of all the Redeemed. It also stands for the very solemn truth of the eternal punishment of impenitent sinners. These truths are believed to be revealed in the verbally-inspired writings of the Old and New Testaments. It is desired to set them forth in all humility and love, avoiding all unbecoming and harsh language, and recognizing that those brethren who do not see these truths to the extent that we

see them, can only be led into them by the teaching of the Holy Ghost. It is no credit to us if we see truths that are hidden from others. We have nothing that we did not receive, and therefore we have no reason to boast, but every reason to walk very humbly before our Covenant God.

In setting forth these truths we stand where our great Reformers stood. We stand where the Puritans stood. We stand where Romaine, Toplady, Berridge, and Newton stood. We take the stand of the Seventeenth Article of the Church of England, of the Westminster Confession of Faith, and of other Reformed Confessions. Above all, we stand where the Bible stands. Our theology, we believe, is not merely that of Augustine, Calvin, John Knox, John Owen, John Bunyan, John Newton, and many others, but it is the theology of our Lord and of His apostles, and the theology of the Old Testament. In these old paths we desire by God's grace still to walk, though Christendom for the most part has adopted what is regarded as more up-to-date theology, a theology which it is thought is more suited to the times in which we live.

We would here extend our warmest thanks to our kind helpers who regularly, month by month, contribute to our pages.

The Trustees warmly appreciate the kindness and liberality of our many readers who contribute to the GOSPEL MAGAZINE Fund. We trust this help may continue to be forthcoming.

We greatly regret that as the year closes the news has reached us of the death of one of our Trustees, Mr. W. Prebble. He was a great admirer of Toplady,

a former Editor, and he greatly valued the Magazine and the truths for which it stands.

We are greatly cheered by the letters which we receive from different parts of the world from readers who greatly value the Magazine. We would ask them all to join us in regular prayer that God's blessing and encouragement may increasingly be given, and that the number of our regular readers and subscribers may be greatly increased. It is a joy to think of our readers as members of the one family of God, though scattered in various parts of the world. Our hearts are drawn out to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ; and especially to those who value the distinctive doctrines of the grace of God.

In these days of abounding apostasy there is a loud call to the Lord's true people to stand steadfastly in the old truths, and to give diligence to make their calling and election sure by a holy walk and conversation. Worldliness abounds in the professing Church, and we need definitely to be separate from false teachers, and from the pleasures of the world. "Who-soever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James iv. 4).

In the name of our Trustees we send warm Christian greetings to all our readers at home and abroad.

THE EDITOR  
(*Thomas Houghton*).

*Whittington Vicarage,  
Stoke Ferry, King's Lynn.  
November 6th, 1936.*