

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.”—2 Corinthians 3. 5.

**“Jesus Christ
the Same..
To-Day.””**

Hebrews 13. 8.

“Without Me ye can do nothing.”—John 15. 5.

**“I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the Lord,
the praises of the Lord.”—Isaiah 63. 7.**

“ Jesus Christ the Same . . . to-day.”

Hebrews 13. 8.

A Further Record of His Sufficiency, and Undeserved Enabling, in Gospel Witness.(1).

OUR God . . . is able,” said the three trustful friends of Daniel (3. 17). There is no lack on His side, and “no want to them that fear Him” (Ps. 34. 9). We could speak of many varied experiences, but never of varied grace. “He abideth Faithful.” When the magazine was first cyclostyled, from August 1898, He often kept stencils from breaking (beyond expectation), and granted a speed far beyond the advertised rate. Is anything too **SMALL** for our Heavenly Father? When He called to the privilege of giving up selling the Monthly, and looking more simply to Him to supply every need, He proved Faithful every month. When war-time brought problems of paper, eight times the price, and more, He still sustained. When the printing increased, and leaflets became far more numerous, He did not leave, nor will He forsake. One marvels at His patience and tenderness, and that there has not

(1) Earlier leaflets and booklets (e.g. Behold the Mounts, Parts of His Ways, The Lord's Enabling) telling a little of God's faithfulness, and His loving kindnesses, now every morning, in the growth of this service unto Him, gladly sent to any who rejoice to give thanks unto His Name.

been a fuller confidence in Himself. It is not childish to be childlike. God is not merely the "Supreme Being" to His people: He loves them with an intimacy of fatherly love, to awaken their love, and when He says, "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4. 6), He means exactly what He says. The Holy Spirit has not written **one** word in Scripture that will let an obedient believer down. "Be not afraid, **only believe.**"

If any child of God should praise especially for grace abounding, surely it is the writer of these lines. Blessed with Christian parents, and early dedicated to the Lord and His service, the subject of many prayers, and brought in childhood to a knowledge of salvation, trained lovingly in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, he feels that if much is granted, much is rightly expected. And now, looking back over more than thirty years of editorial labour, it is a privilege to see the way the Lord has led (Deut. 8. 2), and the heart longs for a deeper experience of the next verse, "Man doth not live by bread alone, but **BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDETH OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE LORD DOTH MAN LIVE.**" And the message written by beloved parents in their little one's Bible, yet further back, still has its living message, "This book of the law shall not depart

out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success " (Jos. 1. 8).

But I am not writing personal reminiscences, though this has been suggested, and it should ever be a joy to tell what He has done for one's soul (P's. 66. 16). Nor can we forget that God's grace in His work is through personal, and withal imperfect, instruments. The glory is His, the failures are ours. I look back and remember my beloved father's ever loving help, and kindly, but firm, criticism, to maintain the fuller accuracy of the magazines. And now he has been over eight years with his Lord, and awaiting "that Day." I recall, too, my beloved mother's devoted energy, even amid physical weakness, and untiring co-operation in the background-despatch of envelopes and parcels. And she now has been more than a year "with Christ, which is far better." And I am left alone, yet not alone. Ah, not alone, and the Lord remains, and loving brethren and sisters in Christ seek to lighten the burden, and by prayer, and labour, to make His praise glorious. If the pages have a freshness, it is because of His love. They **should** be ever fresh, for there is no winter near the river of water of life, and a monthly messenger may well cherish

the delightful prophetic words, "fruit every month" (Rev. 22. 2). And God is willing to enable this to-day.

But we need the anointing with fresh oil (Ps. 92. 10), and the abiding in Christ, and the dwelling of God with His people, to revive continually (Isa. 57. 15). And it is a joy that many bear up in regular prayer those who have the responsibility. I am surprised I do not please Him more, but I cannot withhold the grateful tribute to His sustaining love. Again I would say, "The glory is His, the faults are mine," and more fervent prayer is both needed and valued.

The testimony has not been on popular lines. We have felt that the full inspiration of Scripture leads to a desire for the appointed unity of God's people, not only in His presence, but as a witness now, in the power of the Holy Spirit. We can never "agree to differ," to His glory. And though there should be gracious love to those who are not of one mind, and a deep humility as to personal limitations of knowledge, yet anything that appears definitely set forth by the Holy Spirit in Scripture cannot be held lightly. Hence a stress on separation from the world's politics, and benefit societies, may offend some. A reminder that Christmas is against Christ, and without any Scripture warrant, may displease others. Some may repudiate the testimony as to Scriptural im-

mersion of believers, and the Lord's Supper with unleavened symbols. And others may wish the pages did not refer to assemblies "according to the pattern," in which a "state-church," and great earthly denominations, can find no parallel. Yet others may refuse the pleading with believers to heed the Holy Spirit's call to unworldly and glad readiness for separation in matters such as smoking and fashions. Others again may disapprove the thought that a believer's love to enemies, and his patient waiting while Christ sits (Ps. 110. 1), call to a definite separation from all warfare. But the Lord should be first, and we hope that none can say there has been a proud, or ungracious, or unkind setting forth of that which our hearts believe. We have not sought to wound for wounding's sake. The path has not been easy, but our longing is that He may ever be glorified. And with the conviction of responsibility to declare what we believe His words set forth, we would seek no pedestal. Many who, it seems to us, grieve God's Holy Spirit in some of these matters, may love their Lord far more than we do, and we may grieve Him in other things. But we long for others to point these out, and not to be silent. Trusteeship of truth is not to be repudiated till we reach personal perfection. All these things should make our hearts pray for grace to grow up into Christ IN ALL THINGS.

And together with: the testimony, and as the basis of the testimony, regarding a practical walk to please God, we rejoice that grace has been given to declare the precious realities of His electing love, and redemption by the blood of Christ alone. The Holy Spirit's quickening and indwelling must ever be emphasised, and He ever leads to a looking for "that Blessed Hope." And though dear children of God may not yet see alike as to the order of events, if their hearts cry "Even so, come, Lord Jesus," should there not be a getting ready, a godly concern, and a prayerful expectation to be Scripturally drawn together? Thus have we sought to set forth what we feel to be God's prophetic teaching, even if unpopular, and would look to Him for grace not to be one-sided but to declare His **whole** counsel, that we may not, through neglecting this, be shamed away from Him in His presence.

The thought of the Lord's own and their edification should ever be before us, but He impresses the needs of the unsaved also. We look back to about 1906, and remember how we went forth, between meetings for believers, to speak to Gentiles, or to any who came, and Jews gathered. Thus the work among Israel commenced, over 150 different leaflets and booklets having been printed; and God enabled 35,000 of the last issue of "The Glory of Israel Will Come" in Yiddish. Apart

from East London circulation, we thank Him for letter box work in other ghettos of this great city, and for His enabling to send to others who emphasize "Christ and Him crucified" in other lands. Nor would we forget the brief, but precious, Poland journeys of our brethren Messrs. Ruda and Werner, and others, of which more later. To Him be all the glory. "Questions of Enquiring Jews" is mainly in English, and a copy will be gladly sent, together with leaflets of some Polish service.

The impressive words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 28. 18-20 associate His "Whatsoever" with a witness to "all nations." The writer, feeling God has not yet called him permanently to the foreign field, has realized a responsibility for foreign service. Hence the work among men of "all nations" in London, and other parts, has been a joyous privilege, in which a goodly number of brethren have used many happy hours of service. Most British ships pay off their hands, but foreign crews welcome a visit, and thousands have been reached personally. We are praiseful for the courtesy of "all that are in authority" in this, as well as Continental ministry. We thank God, too, for meetings among Asiatic seamen at Grundy Street, and for His enabling of various brethren in various languages, for the varied labours. And thus again we come back to His

own unvaried grace. We would not forget the hundreds of Arabs at Cardiff and South Shields occasionally visited, and the Maltese centre also, lovingly made the Lord's background for the translations and printing in Maltese (2), concerning which pages might be written, telling how **He undertook**. And He is the Same, and that stronghold of Romanism is still being reached by persistent prayerful posting to individuals. An attack in the Maltese Press unwittingly told us **how** to obtain more addresses. The Lord is gracious and overrules: unto Him be the glory.

It is impossible to remember all, but we need to say to ourselves, as well as to one another, "Forget not all" (Ps. 103. 2). It is so easy to forget. We would thankfully record God's hand in the printing. The booklet, "Come, for all Things Are Now Ready" has been issued in Bohemian (2 editions), Chinese, Dutch, French, German (3 editions) and Greek, and, while we write, a larger edition (50,000) in Italian is being printed. To God alone be the praise. About 5 other tracts

(2) The ecclesiastical authorities opposed in the Press, etc., and made possession of "God Hath Spoken," the translation of which we were able to obtain, practically a ground for excommunication! This honouring testimony that God was at work should increase our loving prayer for those kept in blindness. "Their own shepherds pity them not."

have been issued in Dutch (or Flemish), and in French and Italian. And several in Norwegian and Swedish, with many in German, and one each in Polish and Spanish. Text tracts in Chinese and Greek, and John 9 in Hindustani may be gratefully remembered. It is a joy to hear the Lord uses the messages, and will grant yet more, we humbly expect, and in further languages also.

Many of these publications have been supplied to others, but the Lord has granted brethren from here the privilege of service in Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Holland, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Switzerland. (3). We are thankful to have had thousands of the gospel of John in German with a special title page for free distribution; and 250 Bibles, and many New Testaments also, have been issued in the same way, which are being used to God's glory. The varied experiences make us thankful to Him, though we feel ashamed we do not love Him more. It is to His praise to record occasionally a little of what He has enabled, but we would equally record our own unworthiness. How much more we

(3) Letters from such on services have been lovingly typed by those who thus participate just as definitely in this foreign labour unto the Lord, and can be lent. We learn that God has used them to stimulate missionary zeal. The use of holidays from daily business, unto the Lord, is a privilege.

might have done, whether in busy towns and market places, in Jewish or Mohammedan Restaurants, on ships and in villages, if we had known more communion with our Lord Himself. We can only praise Him : we cannot, and would not, praise self. But if He uses us, His patience and willingness to use His people becomes the yet more manifest.

"And how," some may ask, "have the funds been supplied?" Surely we can say, "God is Faithful." Trials have sometimes been permitted, but never too heavy. We have definitely realized that it was not His will to go into debt, nor to order supplies of paper or printing, unless He had provided. And He has not failed. As I write, a letter with a special gift reaches me, and also encourages as it tells of the articles on the Parables proving "increasingly precious." To Him alone be all the glory, for the two-fold refreshment: from Himself, through His people. The varied ways, in which He has met the need, awaken praise. The time of meeting them, sometimes well beforehand, sometimes near to the last moment, may well be set on record. A personal incident may help. I have felt that the glory of God in providing things honest in the sight of men, "that the ministry be not blamed," was a call to me not to draw on the gifts for God's work, nor, in general, to appropriate a portion even if

any kindly said, "For the Lord's work, or if you have personal needs," but to wait for His more definite provision, and, in this connection, recollect a journey, and a visit at its close. An envelope was handed me, and, in thankfully receiving, I remarked that it was for the Lord's work. The answer came, "For you." The giver knew nothing of my circumstances then, but, on totalling up my expenses and estimating the foreign exchange, I found the gift appeared to be one halfpenny more than my outlay. It is like to the Lord to give one halfpenny more and not one farthing less. I felt He gave me a token, and may I not add, one coin to start the next journey unto Him? (4). Givers fall asleep, and we might feel inclined to say, "How will He undertake?" but rather would we remember "His love in time past," and "the years of the right hand of the Most High," and that He does not fall asleep, nor fail. He has no lack, and we would trust Him more and more. He can work, and direct, or indirect, appeals do not seem His will for us. We feel we ought to print, occasionally at least, a record of grace: it is important to let His people share the encouragement, that they, and we, may learn

(4) A leaflet, "Does God answer His People's Prayers?" may interest with a further record. But we only tell a little of His great grace.

faith is not only for eternal salvation but for present daily life. God will honour our trust as we trust Him more simply. We have lost much through lack of faith, nothing have we lost through faith.

Whither do the magazines go? We had almost said, To all lands. The background loving labour of children of God in stitching, addressing, folding, posting—is precious in His sight. Some have lists of missionaries and others, to whom they send regularly. The central postage account is no small one, but the silver and the gold belong to Him. Parcels go to various continents for the loving service of willing and praying distributors, and we rejoice when any take this privilege. The Gold Coast, with its school lads, is by no means forgotten. It would not be easy to sum up all, but if He refreshes His people in many lands, they are **His** people, and the food is **His** provision.

It is refreshing to remember that our Heavenly Father has given us the joy, on behalf of others in various parts, to help a little the poor in foreign countries, and to meet some needs of earnest servants of God, who desire to trust Him, in lands as far apart as China and Brazil. Personal correspondence and a gift of love are often tokens of grace, affording much encouragement, and strengthening amid trials. It is a joy whenever His own who have the means have privileged

and honoured us to be the instruments between them and those who have needs of soul or body.

Letters, of varied character, some needing counsel, others needing cheer, arrive from all manner of places. We look back over last week's list:— England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Switzerland, Gold Coast, Nigeria, Canada, United States, Guatemala and Australia are represented. May grace be given for, and in, all answering. Requests are occasionally beyond fulfillment. Even a desire for literature on two or three special subjects may involve gathering leaflets from a large number of boxes. (5) However, this is a joy and can be accomplished. But a request simply for one of EVERY LEAFLET cannot be fulfilled to the glory of God. It would entail hours of labour! We praise Him for the many varieties He has enabled, and the store-keeping is no light problem, commended to His people's prayer. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it" is a continual principle.

So we raise another Ebenezer to the glory of our living and prayer-answering God, and if this record of grace causes thanksgiving, and more simple faith, in our own and other believing lives.

(5) Over 250 typewritten notes, too, are being used of God to help, at great length, on varied topics. We rejoice to send for a fortnight.

·we shall unite in that further thanksgiving also. The work is not ours, but His. The glory is not ours, but unto His Name. Our gracious Heavenly Father really cares for His children. Our beloved Lord is the One to appoint His glad servants. The Holy Spirit indwells, to enable in the smallest regular details, as well as in great crises. And wherever there are those who would please Him more, in humble gratitude, our hearts can say to them, "Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that . . . thanks may be given by many on our behalf" (2. Cor. 1. 11), "that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God" (2. Cor. 4. 15); and again we can proclaim the joyful fact, "Jesus Christ the Same yesterday, and **to-day**, and for ever" (Heb. 13. 8), "Thanks be unto God for His Unspeakable Gift" (2. Cor. 9. 15).

Percy W. Heward.

Autumn, 1931.

**"The Coming of the Lord
draweth nigh."**

James 5. 8.

“ Fear thou not ; for I am with thee : be not dismayed ; for I am thy God : I will strengthen thee ; yea, I will help thee ; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness.”

Isaiah 41. 10.

Magazines (monthly, as the Lord enables), “Thoughts from the Word of God” and the Student of Scripture.” booklets and leaflets on The Deity of Christ, Inspiration of the Scriptures, The Glorious Gospel, Baptism, The Lord’s Supper, Separation from the World (including Christmas, Smoking, &c.). The Coming Again of the Lord Jesus, &c., &c., with List of Typewritten Notes, gladly sent to believers who are desirous of pleasing their Lord more and more in the enabling of the Holy Spirit, and to any enquiring the way of salvation.

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