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JOINTS & BANDS

(COLOSSIANS 2:19)



January 2014

Another Year

Not everything is entirely 'new' in being privileged to enter into a New Year. Indeed the 'old things', which we are familiar with and have grown accustomed to, are greatly valued and appreciated. The householder commended by Our Lord, from the eight parables of Matthew 13, was one that brought from His treasures' ... things new and old!' (Matt. 13:52).

What a claim we make in attesting that God's highest revelation is made clear to such, by 'rightly dividing the word of truth'; they see their calling as being within that which 'fills up' what God has to say to man (Col. 1:24-29).

This may sound as if there is nothing new to be learned, although, coming from God, this truth can continue to occupy anyone's mind and heart during this life.

We are not as those who spent their time, '... to tell or hear some new thing' (Acts 17:21), but rather, as we have it in the Chapel Hymn book, '... sing of the new revelation, the secret now fully made known'.

M. Garstang

Preston Fellowship 2013.

The past year has been one of continued fellowship around God's Word. Our main studies have been from selected Psalms and the whole of 1Corinthians. There are many vital lessons to be learned from scriptures outside of Paul's prison ministry

It was recorded in the April issue of Joins & Bands, that Mr John Walsh had fallen asleep in Christ, at the age of 92years. Mr Walsh has been sorely missed; it was a privilege to have fellowshiped with him for so many years.

We were delighted to have had visits from Barry & Marjorie Marple and Michael & Ping Garstang over the year, it was a joy to listen to their ministries.

Another highlight of the past year was that Alan Carter was able to take an occasional meeting and to renew our fellowship with both

Alan & Enid, after a long period of sickness which Alan has suffered.

We look forward to 2014 and continuing the fellowship around God's Word.

Alan Schofield

Words in Season.

The following extract comes from *The Berean Expositor* Volume 23 pages 97, 98. It speaks of the basis of the gospel of our salvation, and is a lesson in the steps that we must take to follow the admonition to 'rightly divide the Word of Truth'. We hope to include the next article in March issue of the Joins and Bands.

No. 17.

Simple gospel notes on John 3:16

(1.) The twofold basis.

'Two words will occupy our attention in this article. They are those with which John 3:16 opens: *For God*. Taken together they bring before us the twofold authority for the good news called 'the gospel'.

For.—*The* first word, 'for', takes us back to verse 14, and so to the inspiration and authority of the Old Testament:

'And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up'.

A superficial view of Christianity might lead one to ask whether it really matters what views are held as to the nature and extent of the inspiration of the O.T. Scriptures, provided that the death and resurrection of Christ are faithfully preached. To this we would reply by quoting the Lord's own words in the same Gospel:

'Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe My words' (John 5:46, 47).

Here the matter is challenged by the Lord Himself, and a solemn responsibility rests upon every preacher of the gospel to face its issues. If Moses did not lift up the serpent in the wilderness, if the Book of Numbers is but a 'pious fraud' belonging to a priestly caste, if the Saviour was mistaken concerning the Old Testament type, then we have no certainty, for the Lord may also have been mistaken concerning the reality. *The cross and its purpose* are at stake.

In the same way the gospel cannot be faithfully preached if the story of Jonah be denied, for the words of the Lord in Matt. 12:39-41

Unless otherwise stated, Bible passages are from the King James Version (KJV). But, for unknown historic reasons, this item has no 'use of italics, to indicate English words added by the KJV translators, to try to clarify the meaning of the Greek or Hebrew', (as is normal in KJV Bibles, and is © in the UK.).

show that a denial of the truth of the record of Jonah imperils the truth of the resurrection, and if the resurrection be touched, we have no gospel to preach (I Cor. 15:14, 17). Or, again, if the record of the flood and of the days of Noah be repudiated as ‘myth’, what becomes of ‘the coming of the Son of man’ (Matt.24:37-41)? Or, coming to the gospel as proclaimed by Paul, can the epistle to the Romans remain unshaken if the historical accuracy of Genesis concerning Adam and Abraham be denied?

Our first note, therefore, is that the truth of the gospel and the inspiration of the Scriptures are inseparable:

‘The word of the Lord endureth forever. And THIS is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you’ (1 Pet. 1:25).

God.--If the Word of God underlies the gospel, the God of the Word is its Author. The gospel is called ‘The gospel of God’ (Rom. 1:1). It is ‘the power of God unto salvation’ (Rom. 1:16). It is concerned with ‘the salvation of God’ (Acts 28:28). Its basis is ‘the righteousness of God’ (Rom.1:17). It issues in ‘the peace of God’ (Phil. 5:7), and its character is that of ‘the gospel of the grace of God’ (Acts 20:24).

No gospel that is authorised by the Scriptures originates from a Source lower than God Himself. The healing power was not in the serpent of brass, or in Moses who erected it, but in God: ‘Pray unto the Lord that *He* take away the serpents’ (Num. 21:7: *See also* 2 Kings 18:4). It was God Who prepared the great fish (Jonah 1:17). Jonah prayed to the Lord, and the Lord spake unto the fish and returned Jonah to the land of the living (Jonah 2:10). Not all the carpenters in the days of Noah could have constructed an ark to withstand the onslaughts of that great deluge. It was the Lord Who shut Noah within the ark (Gen. 7:16), and it was God Who ‘made a wind to pass over the earth’ so that ‘the waters assuaged’ (Gen. 8:1).

This, then, is the twofold basis of the gospel—the inspired Word, in its type, prophecy, history and doctrine; and God, as the Author and Provider of all things necessary to make that gospel His power unto salvation’.

Charles H Welch

Notes for 2014 Diary

April 12th - Birmingham Conference

May 10th - Perth Conference

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Throughout January, February and March 2014, the Ministry at the Chapel of the Opened Book (Wilson Street, London. EC2A 2ER) on Sundays at 11.00 a.m., will be, D.V., as follows:

January	February	January
5 th M.Garstang	2 nd M.Garstang	2 nd M.Garstang
12 th M.Garstang	9 th M.Garstang	9 th M.Garstang
19 th M.Garstang	16 th M.Garstang	16 th M.Garstang
26 th M.Garstang	23 rd M.Garstang	23 rd M.Garstang
		30 th M Garstang

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS AT THE CHAPEL ARE:

Wednesdays at 1:05 to 1:35 p.m. Bible studies for anyone in the City at these times, for business or pleasure.

Chapel Telephone No. Monday to Friday 02072471467

Saturdays at 3:00 pm, on the first Saturday in each month, Meeting for discussion, **Nov – Mar at 2:00pm**. Please contact Michael Garstang on the phone to confirm that the meeting will be held. 02084468902.

OTHER BIBLE STUDIES

Preston (3 Library Street) Second and Fourth Sunday at 3:15 and 5:15 p.m. (Phone 01772 702236).

PLEASE SEND YOUR NEWS, NOTES, INFORMATION AND ITEMS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER TO:

Mr. Barry Marple, Orchard Close, 52A St. Mary's Lane, LOUTH, Lincolnshire LN11 0DT as soon as possible **and not later than 6th February 2014.**

The trustees would like to announce a job opportunity in the U.K. for someone to take over the Hon. Treasurer position for the BFM and BPT; the current incumbent has held the post for 30 years and has found it a privilege to serve the Lord in this capacity. Someone who has worked in Commerce or Industry would be preferred; training would be given to a successful applicant in the way the assets are managed and also the operation of the Sage accounting package.

Anyone interested should contact Barry Marple at the address in the above paragraph.

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