‘That He Might Fill’… (Eph. 4:9,10)

Unbelief says, ‘…if there is a God, Why…’, whenever disasters and crises happen, whether personally or nationally. Unbelief perceives God as some helpless observer of the wickedness of these days. Not so, says Scripture; ‘He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good…’ (Matt.5:45). ‘He did good… filling our hearts with good and gladness’ (Acts 15:17). ‘The goodness of God leadeth…to repentance’ (Rom. 2:4).

The believer in Christ (on the other hand) would rejoice that Christ is ‘even at the right-hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us’ (Rom. 8:34), Wonderful it is to know that, ‘we have an Advocate with the Father’ in our Saviour Christ (1 John. 2:1).

However, as Mr. Welch says, ‘… orthodoxy has no place in its creed for one star differing from another star in glory’. Scripture however, when rightly divided does exhort to and also exhibit proof of ‘things which differ’. This is the explanation of Philippians 1:10; Rotherham has it ‘…putting to the test the things that differ…’, and Moffat ‘…a sense of what is vital…’.

It is Ephesians which puts the believer where he can contemplate some of the purposes of Christ’s Ascension. As Paul reminds us in this parenthesis of Eph. 4:9,10 where he speaks of ‘He that descended’. This phrase comprehends Our Lord’s Incarnation, his assumption of human nature. Paul assures us that ‘the same’ is He that ascended up far above all heavens’. ‘The same’ – truly precious words as we have them even in Hebrews 1:12 and 13:8. However, in Ephesians the reference is not to Creation – which He upholds by the word of His Power. In Ephesians we are told what Christ is about during this long dispensation of Grace. We are told, it is that ‘He might fill (the) all things’, which agrees with Eph. 1:23, where Christ is said to be He Who, ‘filleth the all things with all’. To quote Mr. Welch again, ‘Christ’s ministry’ is part of the great pleroma (fulness), the all things, that which Christ is making to accomplish the glorious goal of the ages and to undo the works of the Devil…’
How wonderful then to know our calling (Eph. 4:1); also to be freed to even contemplate the fact that what Christ is doing now is not remote to us, not ‘knowledge’ only, but that which concerns at the same time a purpose of the ages, yet which is also a stride towards when God shall be all in all, towards even our destiny in the life to come.

M. Garstang

Preston Meetings

We are privileged to meet together every two weeks, having two meetings each time. The Lord is blessing our fellowship, of which we are thankful. Although our ageing fellowship gives way to health problems from time to time, we are thankful for the faithfulness of each of them. Looking at the ever increasing problems this world is facing and the inability of the people in power to do much about it, we rejoice that we can draw aside in perfect freedom (at least for the time being) to open God's Word in the quietness of our meeting room and receive strength and confidence through the glorious promises in His Word. ‘Be still and know that I am God…’ (Psa. 46:10). To come aside and meditate on God's Word is a privilege indeed.

Alan Schofield.

HOLIDAYS

This being our last ‘Joints & Bands’ for the year 2014, I am sure that you can join with us in ‘giving thanks unto the Father Who hath…’. His work goes on; we can but pray that we have not hindered it any way. His mercies have been ‘new every morning’.

We wish all who read, blessedness over Christmas and New Year. Ping and I will be in the Philippines from Dec. 15th to 31st. The Chapel will not be open from 15th December until the Saturday study at 2:00pm on 3rd January 2015.

Thanks must go to the trustees and also to the unnamed helpers involved in producing the Berean Expositor and Joints & Bands.

M. Garstang

71st Anniversary Report

27th and 28th September 2014

Dan Lewis was our Chairman for the early afternoon meeting of our 71st Anniversary services, apologies were noted as were the good wishes from Moscow and Manila. ‘Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, tune our hearts to sing Thy praise’ was our heartfelt desire as we sang our first hymn. The reading by brother Roy Ginn was from John chapter one followed by a prayer from brother Paul
Kreling; then followed the hymn ‘Not what I am O Lord, but what Thou art’.

Archie Falisi from Bedford brought to us his message based on John and his Gospel. Our speaker set out his theme by discussing the Person of John, the Purpose of his Gospel, and the Period when it was written.

John was the young man who outran Peter when racing to the empty tomb on Resurrection Morning who yet (it is said) spent his last days in Ephesus as the first Christian century closed. John’s purpose in writing his Gospel is given in the well-known verses, ‘as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God...’ (John 1:12) and also, ‘...these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, ye might have life through His Name...’ (John 20:31). Archie made due reference to Christ as the ‘Word’ (Gk. logos), being the expression of God, as the ‘the only begotten Son’, Who being in the bosom of the Father, has declared Him Who is unseen, (John. 1:18). The period when John’s gospel was written was referred to: a late, ‘post Acts 28’ date was Archie’s conclusion regarding this question of the date.

Thanks go to the ladies whose labours of love supplied a fine tea before the evening service.

Our evening service was convened by Peter Ambrose, starting with a prayer from Paul Kreling and continuing with a reading of Colossians chapter one by Nicolas Kafouris.

The speaker’s theme was the closeness of the two verses in Colossians chapter one, verses seventeen and nineteen. These verses concern Christ as the Creator in Whom all things consist, as well as He in Whom all fulness dwells. Why these two truths should be so close together, linked (or separated) by ‘He is the Head of the Body’ was considered.

A blessed day was concluded as we sang:

‘Soon, soon shall come that wondrous day’

When, seated on Thy throne treasurer
Thou shalt to wondering worlds display
That Thou, with us, art one...

Roy Ginn ably conducted the Sunday morning service; Barry Marple spoke on Zechariah’s many allusions to ‘in that day’, especially those found in the last three chapters of Zechariah’s prophecy. Such phrases as ‘cup of trembling’ and ‘burdensome
stone’ were expounded, and what the promises of deliverance for Israel shall include. In that day ‘they shall look upon Him Whom they pierced’, they will mourn for what the people of Israel did ‘. A fountain will open in the house of David for their sin and uncleanness’ (Zech. 12:2,3,10 and 13:1). This fountain, as Barry showed, recalled Lev. 16:16 and the Feast of Atonement, which will have its fulfilment ‘in that day’.

Familiar as we may be with Zech. 14:4, ‘…His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives’, we must note that this will be a literal occurrence. Barry spoke too of the parting of the Mount of Olives, how the subsequent flood would cleanse the Dead Sea from its current saltiness. During the Millennium, the nations of the earth will go up to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, fulfilling another Feast. The bowls of the people will be used like those of the priests, before the Altar, Israel will be a ‘Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation unto the Lord’.

We thank God for the privilege of being part of these services which caused us to sing truly:

‘...our praise and adoration
And love to Him increase...’

M.G.

N.B. Audio tapes of these Services are available from:
Marjorie Marple
52a St Marys Lane
Louth
Lincolnshire
LN11 0DT

Report on the work of the Berean Forward Movement

Barry Marple, in presenting his, report, gave time to explaining about the merger of the BFM with the BPT into a single trust, the Berean Publishing Trust CIO. He also took questions from the congregation, below is a précis of these questions and answers:

Q – What is the motivation behind merging the two trusts?
A – Excess of expenditure over Income for the BFM would be alleviated by the merger, so ensuring the continuance of the written and spoken Word.

Q – Who will be the Trustees of the (now) Charitable Incorporated Organization?
A – Frank Papworth, Alan Schofield, Barry Marple, Alan Carter, and Michael Garstang.

Q – Have any previous Trustees (of BFM or BPT) not been Included?

A – Yes.

We have received telephone calls and emails support what has been done and only two negative reactions out of the 150 letters circulated.

In the main, the announcement of the merger has been very well received.

There are those who seem to believe that the new trust will encourage the idea that there is only one calling in operation today. The trustees believe, as always, that there is more than one calling existing today and this will continue to be a fundamental principle in the new organization, as will the circulation in word and letter of the works of Charles H. Welch.
The Dispensational Boundary


A Jew to Paul's lodging. A day
Paul expounds Kingdom of God
Persuading concerning Jesus
Out of Law and Prophets
From morning till evening
They agreed not among themselves
They departed

K The word of the Holy Ghost
Go unto this people
Hear...not understand
Hearts gross
Ears dull

I Eyes closed
Ears hear

Hearts understand

Be converted
I should heal them
Salvation of God
Sent to the Gentiles
They will hear it

Jews departed
Reasoning among themselves
All to Paul's hired house. Two years
Paul preaches Kingdom of God
Teaching con: Lord Jesus Christ
All confidence. No ref. to O.T.
Unhindered.
Eph. iv. 1-6
Guarding the Treasure

KEEP
UNITY
IN BOND

PEACE

WORTHY

Spiritual Blessing Spiritual Armour
Ps Prayer for Sts Prayer for P.
Power worked in Power worked out
N. Creation Walk N. Creation Walk
New Man Aliens N. Man Alienated
Faitly Framed Fitly Joined
3 fold Unity 7 fold Unity

John Baptist

ACTS
SPIRIT
WATER

Mystery

Spirit
MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Throughout November, December 2014 and January 2015, 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:

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<th>November</th>
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<td>2\textsuperscript{nd} M.Garstang</td>
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OTHER ENGAGEMENTS AT THE CHAPEL ARE:

\textbf{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 \texttt{02072471467}

Saturdays at 3:00 pm, (2 p.m. November to March) on the first Saturday in each month, Meeting for discussion. Please contact Michael Garstang on the phone to confirm that the meeting will be held. \texttt{02084468902}.

*Please Note – No Wednesday meeting on the 5\textsuperscript{th} November, 17\textsuperscript{th} or 24\textsuperscript{th} December*

First meeting in New Year – Saturday 3\textsuperscript{rd} January 2:00pm

\textbf{OTHER BIBLE STUDIES}

\textbf{Preston (3 Library Street)} Second and Fourth Sunday at 3:15 and 5:15 p.m. \texttt{(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 \textbf{and not later than 6\textsuperscript{th} December 2014}.

We wish to once again thank the anonymous benefactor for the generous gifts