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No. 31.

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THE present time is indeed a day of difficulty for the people of God. Difficulties in all departments of life and in all sections of the Church of God, yet amidst it all God remains the same. He is ever faithful, ever true. The same yesterday and to-day and for ever, and His Word abides steadfast and sure.

Modernistic tendencies abound on every hand, and the enemy was never so busy in attacking the foundations of the Faith as he is at the present time, and it behoves all who love the Lord Jesus to heed the word of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6. 13 :

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, AND HAVING DONE ALL, TO STAND.”

And his counsel to Titus (Titus 1. 9) :

“HOLDING FAST THE FAITHFUL Word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort, and to convince the gainsayers.”

4 • THE FUNDAMENTALS CLEARLY STATED.

It may be a help to some if we briefly consider some of the Foundation Truths which we love so well, and which are vitally fundamental, reminding ourselves afresh of the actual teaching of Scripture upon the various themes.

Shall we then set out in order and commence our study where we only can commence it, with God Himself?

THE TRIUNE GOD.

“The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God” (Psalm 14. 1).

Atheism denies the existence of God, whilst many teach strange things concerning Him, both as to His Person and His work. But what saith the Scriptures?

“There is ONE GOD” (1 Timothy 2. 5).

“There is NONE OTHER BUT HE” (Mark 12. 32).

“I am Jehovah and THERE IS NONE ELSE” (Isaiah 45. 5-6 and 18).

Scripture also teaches, and that with no uncertain sound, that in the Person of the Godhead we have a threefold personality. We read of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and we find equal honour due to each, because each is equally co-eternal and each in full possession of Divine attributes. So much so, that it might almost seem to our finite minds that there must be three Gods. But there is one God and one only, yet three Persons. This is what is termed Trinity in Unity. The shamrock has

three leaves yet it is but one leaf, which is but a feeble picture of the triune character of our God.

The Lord Jesus often spoke of the Father, e.g.:

“I and My Father are one” (John 10. 30).

“That ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in Me, and I in Him” (John 10. 38).

The Father often spoke of the Son, e.g.:

“Thou art My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mark 1. 11).

“This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him” (Matthew 17. 5).

“Thou art My Son” (Hebrews 1. 5).

Both Father and Son testify to the Holy Spirit and His Deity.

“I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter. . . even the Spirit of Truth” (John 14. 16).

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things” (John 14. 26).

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me” (John 15. 26).

We observe these three Divine Persons of the Godhead acting in holy and blessed Unity in the following instances, which are by no means the only ones :—

“In the beginning God (Trinity) created (singular)” (Genesis i. 1).

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law” (Galatians 4. 4).

...“Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the Book it is written of Me), to do Thy will, O God” (Hebrews 10. 7).

“And the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that Holy Thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1. 35).

“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrews 9. 14).

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matthew 28. 19).

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.” (2 Corinthians 13. 14).

“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father” (Ephesians 2. 18).

Next we must consider the wonderful fact of the

INCARNATION OF THE SON OF GOD.

The Word of God says concerning it,

“Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh” (1 Timothy 3: 16).

Note the first two words,

WITHOUT CONTROVERSY.

Faith bows its head in adoration. The unconverted may cavil and argue as they will, but the true child of God says, “My Bible records the fact, God WAS manifest in the flesh, and says it is without controversy. I accept unhesitatingly God’s word and believe all He says.”

What does God say about His Beloved Son becoming Man?

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1: 1).

This verse teaches **the Word was with God and the Word WAS God.**

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth” (John 1: 14).

This verse teaches **the Word became flesh** and was full of grace and truth.

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”
(John 1: 17).

This verse teaches Grace and Truth came by **Jesus Christ**, therefore, we see that **the Word**

was, and is, **Jesus Christ**, who became flesh, full of grace and truth. This is confirmed in John 1. 29,

“The next day John seeth JESUS coming unto him, and saith, Behold THE LAMB OF GOD which taketh away the sin of the world.”

Jesus, the Lamb of God.

See also Hebrews 2. 14-18.

John 3. 16 teaches us that **God** sent His Son.

Hebrews 10. 9 teaches us that the **Lord Jesus** came of His own will.

Luke 1. 35 teaches us concerning the **Holy Spirit's** work in the Saviour's Incarnation.

Again showing the Triune God in Unity.

Next comes the

DEATH OF CHRIST.

What saith the Scriptures?:—

“CHRIST DIED for our sins according to the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15. 3).

“When we were yet without strength in due time CHRIST DIED for the ungodly” (Romans 5. 6).

“God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, CHRIST DIED FOR US” (Romans 5. 8).

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and GAVE UP THE GHOST.

“The Jews therefore, because it was the Preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day), besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that **HE WAS DEAD ALREADY**, they brake not His legs” (John 19. 30-33).

THE RESURRECTION.

If the Saviour had died and been buried and never risen, all would have been well for Satan and his host, and therefore we are not surprised to read that he did his utmost to secure the Body of the Lord Jesus in the tomb. A huge boulder was rolled to the mouth of the sepulchre. It was sealed with the Roman seal and a guard of soldiers was set to watch a dead body. In spite of all the enemy's precautions, Christ **did rise** from that tomb and the enemy knew He had risen, but he must deny it with all his might, so large sums of money were paid to the soldiers to say “His disciples came by night and stole Him away **WHILE WE SLEPT**.” Large sums of money are still being paid by the Devil's servants to keep this fable going, and as it was still believed among the Jews for many years after the resurrection, so it is still believed to-day. (Read Matthew 28. 11-15 for this incident.) The fallacy and unreasonableness of this, we have not time to speak upon, but we **WOULD**

record **God's** testimony to the mighty fact of the Resurrection.

"HE ROSE AGAIN the third day according to the Scriptures; and that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve" (1 Corinthians 15. 4-5).

"Now IS CHRIST RISEN FROM THE DEAD, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Corinthians 15. 20).

The Angels at the sepulchre on the resurrection morning' told Mary Magdalene and the other women,

"He is not here, BUT IS RISEN" (Luke 24. 6).

"Whom GOD HATH RAISED UP, having loosed the pains of death; because it was not possible that He should be holden of it. . . This Jesus HATH GOD RAISED UP, whereof we all are witnesses" (Acts 2. 24, 32).

"But GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD" (Acts 13. 30).

Faith in the resurrection is essential to salvation. **No true Christian can deny the resurrection**, for in so doing he denies his own testimony, for God's Word says,

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and SHALT BELIEVE IN THINE HEART THAT GOD HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, THOU SHALT BE SAVED" (Romans 10. 9).

To deny the Resurrection denies the very basis of salvation. To those who came to the Lord Jesus when here upon earth denying the truth of Resurrection He said,

“Ye do err not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God” (Matthew 22. 29).

Keep close to the Saviour and follow His example with any who speak thus to you.

THE FALL OF MAN

is another vital theme, and one which is inseparably linked with those we have just considered. The death of Christ was necessary **because** man had fallen; through sin came death and judgment, and because man was totally unable to redeem himself the Lord Jesus Christ undertook his case. All these truths are interlocked, we must believe all or none, for each falls back on the other. Scripture testimony here is :—

“For ALL HAVE SINNED, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3. 23).

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and SO DEATH PASSED UPON ALL MEN, for that ALL HAVE SINNED” (Romans 5. 12).

Linked with this is the fact of

ETERNAL PUNISHMENT.

It is the essential consequence of the fall and the only due portion of every soul apart from the death of Christ. If the Saviour had never

died as our Substitute, no person could have escaped the Lake of Fire. But through faith in the Son of God, salvation is now possible. Hear His own words,

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My word, and BELIEVETH on Him that sent Me HATH EVERLASTING LIFE, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5. 24).

But of those who neglect so great salvation, and of those who carelessly go on their way heedless and indifferent, we read,

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life and he that BELIEVETH NOT THE SON SHALL NOT SEE LIFE; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3. 36).

“Shall not see life” precludes the idea of an unbeliever’s salvation after death, whilst the words “the wrath of God abideth on him” deny the doctrine of annihilation, which says when a man dies he is done with. Divine wrath cannot rest on a nonentity; that which has ceased to be, cannot be punished. The punishment of the wicked is as eternal as the happiness of the saved. The same word is used in each case :—

“The gift of God is ETERNAL life”
(Romans 6. 23).

“He became the Author of ETERNAL salvation” (Hebrews 5. 9).

“The God of all grace who hath called us unto His ETERNAL glory by Christ Jesus”
(1 Peter 5. 10).

“Is in danger of ETERNAL damnation”
(Mark 3. 29).

“Suffering the vengeance of ETERNAL fire” (Jude 7).

“Whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have EVERLASTING life” (John 3. 16).

“It is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into EVERLASTING fire” (Matthew 18. 8).

“The righteous into life ETERNAL”
(Matthew 25. 46).

The word underlined is the same in each case in the original.

Revelation 20. 15, gives us the final doom of the Christ rejector :—

“Whosoever was not found written in the Book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

In closing, it is necessary to mention the important subject of

INSPIRATION.

All that we have said rests upon the fact that the Holy Scriptures, as given by God, are verbally inspired; that they are from God Himself. The Authorised and Revised Versions are to all intents and purposes practically as given by God. A word here and there may be mistranslated and a few sentences better rendered, but on the whole they are as near the

actual words of God as given to the holy men who wrote them, as it is possible to get, and there is not a single vital truth wherein there is any fault in translating even. Thus we can safely place our absolute trust in the Scriptures, and this we do.

For those who quibble and argue about verbal inspiration, we have no time nor place. We leave them to their own fate later and merely warn them that

“If the word spoken by angels was steadfast and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward. . . see that ye refuse not Him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused Him that spake on earth much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from Him that speaketh from heaven” (Hebrews 2. 2; 12. 25).

But for the honest enquirer and seeker after truth these lines are penned with the earnest prayer behind each sentence that they may establish in the Faith those who may be young converts, or those who seek for further light.

Take God at His word every time. Give Him any benefit of any doubt, and let God be true and every man a liar if needs be. You may be in the minority in this world, but you are on God's side and therefore the winning side.

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