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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

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55/A/PM

Prayer Meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at Ebenezer, Clapham  
on Saturday evening 8.1.55

Hymns 82, 499, 200

Readings 2 Samuel 23.1-17

Jeremiah 31.26-34

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Many details are recorded concerning David, from the time that he was called from the sheepfold to appear before Samuel and was anointed the future king over Israel. Truly his path was attended with much trial and affliction, many hard, bitter, painful things which he was enabled to endure, all the persecutions the Lord brought him through in a remarkable way.

Here in the verses I have read, we are shown the frame of mind he was in at the close of his life. His last words are recorded, which show how firmly he was settled in his own soul in the covenant of grace. What a wonderful mercy is this for a poor soul, who has perhaps been through much tossing and tempest over many years, to be brought to the end of his days, practically, and then to be favoured, perhaps more clearly and positively than ever before, with a view of his personal interest in the covenant of grace and the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. So here he is - not that every thing in his circumstances was exactly as he would have desired - it was not. Even at this time, probably in his family and also in the nation, there were things which were not according to his mind and desire, yet he says, "Although my house be not so with God"; - although there are these things, - "Yet He hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure". O what a blessed state to be in at any time of one's life where and when it can be rightly felt upon a good foundation, not with false hopes or buoyed up assurances, but a confidence, a gracious confidence enjoyed by having Christ revealed, by some deliverances in the soul, a sweet hope of His mercy flowing into the heart, so that the affections are drawn after Him and a gracious earnestness felt in the soul of interest in His dying love.

Spiritually speaking, this<sup>is</sup> just how the Psalmist felt. Where, then, that is so, it covers everything else. "Although my house be not so", he says, that is, not as I would have it in every aspect, yet this covers everything else, the Lord is my God and will be my God for ever and ever and my Guide, even unto death.

O sweet place this! and I believe that all the Lord's people rightly taught by the Spirit, will never be allowed to settle themselves down by deductions or generalities in religion; the one aim will be, to be rightly brought to this, He hath made it with me - made with me, an everlasting covenant, so that once this standing is enjoyed the state is secured.

There may be many changes in our feelings; much darkness at times may be round about our tent, but the standing remains. What is it then for God to make a covenant with a poor sinner? The covenant was made from all eternity with Christ and every condition therein was made in Him for the salvation of His people; but although it was made with His people in Him as their covenant Head, yet experimentally, it is made with us when the dear Redeemer is revealed and made known in the heart as a personal Saviour, and when, in some measure at least, it is in the soul's experience as David here describes, "He shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain". This is so attractive, even naturally. So it is with the soul when Christ is revealed.

It can be with you, in your experience then, "as a morning without clouds". All clouds disperse when the dear Redeemer comes and fills the heart - He Himself is as a morning without clouds.

So the Psalmist comes to this blessed standing and says, "Yet He hath made with me an everlasting covenant ordered in all things and sure." All is ordered in Christ, not in us, although its blessings will be fulfilled in us - but all is ordered in Him, and nothing can ever fail, nothing can fail there. It is "ordered in all things, and sure."

Then he says, "For this is all my salvation, and all my desire, although He make it not to grow". There may have been things which David had not seen develop as he had desired to see them, but with respect to this particular point in his own soul, he felt firmly established upon the Rock of Ages; and everything is there to us if we rightly view things. Everything is there in this covenant. I think this is very beautiful language, he says, "Ordered in all things and sure", all, as it were, sealed with blood. "For this is all my salvation". I can say that - and I know some of you can but we can never say it with such sweetness as we can say it when His "love is shed abroad in the heart" and His mercy is made sweet in the soul.