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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

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Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham  
on Monday 8th April, 1957

Reading: Acts 13 v 13-39

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The testimony of the Apostle Paul here is on similar lines to that of the Apostle Peter in the second chapter of the Acts, when he preached the first gospel sermon at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. His great point was to set forth that Jesus Christ was the true Messiah, sent of the Father as prophesied in the Old Testament, that He truly came, suffered, died, was buried, and rose again according to the Scriptures. In a very similar way the Apostle Paul, in giving this testimony at Antioch, preached the same Jesus. It is noticeable how they both referred to the Psalms and the Old Testament prophecies concerning Him. The Apostle here definitely states that salvation is alone through Him and that this is no secret, nothing to be hushed up, nothing of a confidential nature, but to be published, proclaimed to all who may hear. "Be it known unto you, men and brethren," - Gentile and Jew, whoever you are, - "that through this Man is preached unto you, the forgiveness of sins." That was the Apostle Paul's great joy, to preach Christ, being determined to know nought beside. And what a fulness we have in these two verses (38, 39) - the pardon of sin and the justification of our persons. Jesus Christ, he declares, is this to all who believe, all whose souls are quickened into life, whose understanding is enlightened, who are blessed with faith, who have this grace and confidence. What a wonderful mercy if this applies to you and me! What great blessings at what great cost! Here is the Law honoured, the curse removed, the blessing of forgiveness, sinners complete in Him, justified from all things, whatever may stand against them, every breach of the Law being repaired by Christ. All who truly believe are complete in Him, completely forgiven and completely justified, and all through Him and by Him, not by any creature, not by anything a creature may have done, however commendable it may have been, but all and every spiritual and saving blessing is through Him. All is by His merit, all by Him, by that which He has accomplished for them. How this exalts Him in the view of faith, when a sight is given of the fulfilling of the Law by Him. What a satisfying of every claim of justice, what a refuge, what a shelter, what a standing ground! May it be given to you and

me to know something of this. It will bring a wonderful peace. It will prepare us for eternity. It will make us fit to die. Here are two vital and essential things, two great and all important doctrines, and two things that constitute a most blessed experience: "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins, and by Him all that believe are justified from all things from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses."

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