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72/A PM

er Meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on the

Monday evening 7.2.72

Hymns 640, 64

Readings: Luke 21. 25 to end: Revelation 1.4-7

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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

When the Lord Jesus was upon earth He made reference to the last days and the conditions that would prevail in those days. How near we may be to the fulfilling of what we have just read is not for me to say. But what I may safely say is that it will be a glorious and blessed day to all living at that time who are looking for His coming. The Apostle Paul writing to the Hebrews says when referring to this particular time that lies ahead: "Unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation".

Here we have recorded what will be seen in that day: "And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." What a blessed sight that will be to those who are looking for Him and await His coming; but what a terrible day it will be to all unbelievers, and those who hate and despise His blessed and glorious Gospel. That He will come again is evident by the Holy Scripture, for here the Lord Himself refers to it, and the Apostle Paul refers to it again in writing to the Thessalonians: "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." The Apostle John in the Revelation affirms the same truth: "Behold, He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see Him and they also which pierced Him and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him."

So we have this great and solemn day ahead clearly predicted which will result in the winding up of conditions now prevailing in this world and will be the end of time. All this is profoundly solemn, but yet, even so, there is an abiding consolation for all who believe in Him. Whatever may come to pass, nothing can affect that comfort His dear people may sometimes feel, as in verse 33: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away". Here is something then that is abiding, whatever may come to this poor world, or the visible heavens, or among the nations of the earth.

Whatever else may and will pass away, there is something that will abide for ever. What can this be? I would like to say that this is the blessed Gospel, for the Gospel is the word of Christ, He being the fulness of it. So this Gospel in its blessings, its promises, and in the eternal redemption of all His dear people will never pass away. What can the passing of the world do to us if our faith and hope is fixed on Christ? We can leave it all, in time we shall have to leave all below; but here is something that will abide for ever. And if we shall one day be taken to that better land, even there His blessed Word, in the full enjoyment, glory and majesty of it, will abide.

What a mercy it is to know something in our souls of the Gospel. There is a timely warning in verse 36: "Watch ye therefore and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy.." This does not indicate any merit of our own by which we can be accounted worthy, but those of whom we read who came up out of great tribulation with their robes washed and made white were accounted worthy, and so will everyone be who stands in union with Christ, washed in His precious blood and clothed in His righteousness. They will all be counted worthy, and probably many who do not feel they are thus washed and clothed to their own satisfaction will be incorporated with those to whom the Apostle Paul refers as "they that look for Him". Even though they cannot feel their personal interest in Him as they would desire, yet, "To them that look for Him will He appear the second time without sin unto salvation" - to their salvation.

Although while here we are attended with bereavements, afflictions, changes, and much distress and trouble, there is a glorious prospect ahead. But while we are here, if we are the Lord's dear children, this exhortation will be needful: "Watch ye therefore and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass" - that is in divine judgements upon the ungodly and the wicked - "and to stand before the Son of man". That is, to stand, as in the book of Daniel "in our lot at the end of the days", in our lot with the Lord's people. May we be helped while we are here to watch and pray and observe this timely injunction.