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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

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Prayer meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham
on Monday evening, 29th. December, 1969

Hymn: 582

Reading: Psalm 119.81-96

The reason I have read these verses, and commenced with hymn 582 is because I felt some confirmation in my heart this morning, when reading before I came downstairs.

I had sought the Lord for another confirming token of His favour toward me in these my latter days. While I was pondering matters over, this came: "All is ordered well". "All is ordered well". Then I began to think upon this when the line came:-

"And my soul approves it well", but I knew there was something before this, yet for the moment, I could not think what it was; then it came upon my spirit so sweetly, "All is settled".

"All is settled"

And my soul approves it well".

That was followed by this particular word of Scripture, "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven" Psalm 119.89. It was as though the Lord said to me, 'I have given you tokens and I shall not take them away; they are all settled, they are settled in my divine purposes toward you. "All is settled", it was these three words that were so particularly good, and I was able, in some measure, to feel that all had been settled well for me in the Lord's divine purposes, yea, in His covenant of grace before time ever was, (although in a way I do still want something further). It was just as though the Lord said, "All is settled" and I could say "And my soul approves it well".

I felt in my heart the hope that not only doctrinally speaking all is settled concerning the Lord's people, but that they are chosen in Christ and are in Him to be redeemed and to be justified by His blood and righteousness, and to be fitted and prepared for eternal glory. All this was plain enough, it was just this personal belief that "All is settled", settled

for me, and settled in the Lord's purposes of love and grace, even toward me! Truly I pondered these things over and could say "And my soul approves it well". I could say that, it was so confirming, - all is settled for ever - The Lord has settled it. "Thy word is settled in heaven". He has settled it there, and nothing can change it, nothing can alter it, and nothing can overturn it. There is, I believe, a Syriac rendering, "Thou O Lord art for ever, and Thy word stands firm in heaven". That can be quite good. It can be confirming to the Lord's children that, as we have been singing, "He will never, never, never" change nor go back on His word and promise. I felt like that in relation to the promises. They are all settled in the divine purposes of God concerning His dear people, but when we are favoured to feel something of the promises in our own hearts, then there is comfort, comfort in this, that it is a settled promise, not something that is yea and nay, but is YEA and AMEN in Christ Jesus! So it is with the precious doctrines of grace, as we believe them, they are settled upon His dear people. They are not something that is subject to change or alteration - His love is settled upon them. His grace, His purposes, and their eternal destiny are all settled for ever with Him. All is settled, and settled in heaven where He dwells. It is settled there; there in heaven where many of His dear people are now.

Here is divine immutability, and we can feel that our faith and our hope is centred in and fixed upon an unchanging God Who will never, never, never leave His dear chosen, redeemed people to sink at last into everlasting perdition.

Pardon this personal reference, but I thought I would like to mention it because of the particular feeling of satisfaction it gave me that all was eternally settled, even though we may not feel to get fresh tokens as we would wish.

(2 Samuel 23.1-5 was read later)