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LaD 389 Layer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves on Saturday evening 25.9.71
at "Ebenezer" Clapham.

Hymns: 359, 883

Reading: Psalms 27 and 28

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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTIST

In the Psalm David expresses his delight in the worship of God, and undoubtedly many, many times while so engaged he had enjoyed that sacred communion with his God which is the highest privilege of the Lord's people while on earth. Sometimes it can be that in real worship down here below we feel to be taken up as it were in the affections of the soul heavenward and to have contact with God.

Verse 9 is a prayer for the light of His countenance, "Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation". The Lord has given a gracious promise unto His people in the Scriptures that He will not leave or forsake them, and this is for their comfort and peace of mind, but it does not indicate that there is no need to seek the Lord for this soul enjoyment experimentally. There can be a general sense of His omniscience, but that is different from a gracious sense of His presence. At times we may feel drawn to Him, and can pour out our heart before Him and then feelingly say, "Leave me not, neither forsake me". The Psalmist never seems to question his interest. In the same verse he could say, "O God of my salvation", "my God". Sometimes he was down in the depths, but he had been brought along through a variety of circumstances as a result of which he could say, "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living". The goodness of the Lord here must mean the Lord's goodness to His people in their salvation, in the Gospel. Not only did he believe it but he believed to see it. This indicates some personal experience of it. How sweet when we can feel that the God we approach is our God, then we can feel that blessed relationship which holds us up, bears us along, is our strength and stay; therefore he could say "Wait on the Lord" whatever your case or condition, or whatever may come in your life or circumstances, "Wait on the Lord," be of good courage and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say on the Lord"; repeating it as though he was so confident, as indeed he was, and had often proved it to be so in his own case. May this be our experience even this evening and at other times if the Lord shall so regard us. Amen.