

# *The Gospel Banner*

## **Young People's Magazine**

**JEHOVAH NISSI - THE LORD OUR BANNER**

**NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION!**

**2 CORINTHIANS 6:2**

For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**

*The  
Gospel Banner*

An Evangelical Reformed Work for the  
Rising Generation

**TO ME TO LIVE  
IS CHRIST**  
-Philippians 1:21



**Volume 1: Issue 1**

# “Jehovah-Nissi”

JEHOVAH-NISSI, THE LORD MY BANNER - EXODUS 17:15

To be sung to the tune Christchurch

**By whom was David taught  
To aim the dreadful blow,  
When he Goliath fought,  
And laid the Gittite low?  
No sword or spear the stripling took,  
But chose a pebble from the brook.**

**'Twas Israel's God and King  
Who sent him to the fight;  
Who gave him strength to sling,  
And skill to aim aright.  
You feeble saints, your strength endures,  
Because young David's God is yours.**

**Who ordered Gideon forth,  
To storm th' invader's camp,  
With arms of little worth,  
A pitcher and a lamp?  
The trumpets made his coming known,  
And all the host was overthrown.**

**Oh! I have seen the day,  
When, with a single word,  
God helping me to say,  
"My trust is in the Lord;"  
My soul has quelled a thousand foes,  
Fearless of all that would oppose.**

**But unbelief, self-will,  
Self-righteousness and pride,  
How often do they steal?  
My weapon from my side?  
Yes David's Lord, and Gideon's friend,  
Will help his servant to the end.**

William Cowper

# Introductory Note

## THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first issue of The Gospel Banner Young People's Magazine

In dependence upon the Lord, we are publishing this first issue of The Gospel Banner Young People's Magazine. This is to follow on from the work called 'Stand Therefore', and if you like, this is merely a renaming. As the Lord's providence allows, we hope to continue this work, and pray that the Lord will bless these feeble efforts of man for his glory.

Why the change? The Gospel Banner reflects much better the central Gospel emphasis of this work. As with all things, there is a great need to have a balance. In this particular respect, there must be a balance between evangelistic Gospel items, and helping believers to grow in grace and in the knowledge of their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. But to all this work, the Gospel is key.

The banner brings a suggestion of identifying with a certain person or army. In this sense, it is of course rallying to the cause of Christ. If you were part of an army fighting in the field, you would always keep your eye on your company's flag, which would in old times have been held by a standard-bearer. As long as that flag was flying, the soldiers would rally under it, and it would become a central point of their efforts.

Christ is the banner or the flag under which all true Christians assemble and rally, and of course it is the banner of the Gospel of the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ shed for sinners under which we stand.

WILLIAM D. J. ARROWSMITH

Church Member at Bells Yew Green Chapel, Sussex

08/08/2023

All articles are written by the editor unless otherwise indicated



# The Holy Scriptures

## DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

Based on the structure provided by the 1689 2<sup>nd</sup> London Baptist Confession of Faith

### **I. The sufficiency of Scripture**

The Scriptures provide the only true wisdom concerning salvation from the wrath to come, by Jesus Christ. Nature may teach us about the greatness and goodness of God, but it cannot teach us of the way of salvation. God in his wisdom, ordained that it should be written for our sakes, that his Word might be preserved after super-natural revelation had ceased, that we might have confidence in it, and that by it we might be taught what is good and what is evil.

### **II. The true books of Scripture**

There are just sixty-six books of the Scripture, thirty-nine in the Old Testament, and twenty-seven in the New Testament. These books were not decided by men at any time, but were preserved, and manifest themselves to be the very Word of God by their remarkable nature, and matchless authority.

### **III. The rejection of the Apocrypha**

The books forming what is called the Apocrypha are not of divine inspiration, and this is clearly manifest when placed alongside the real Scriptures. Whilst they may be used, they must only take the place of ordinary human writings, and must be compared with the Scriptures.

### **IV. The authority of the Scripture**

This book is to be obeyed because it is the Word of God. It is not to be called into question. Rather it is to be listened to, obeyed, and believed. We are to seek to do what it tells us to do.

### **V. Reverence for the Scriptures**

Because it is the Word of God, it is not to be treated like any other book. It is a book to marvel at, and treat with great care, because of its

divine author. The words of Scripture are not to be used lightly, or in jest or light talking, because they are words from God himself.

## **VI. The completeness of the Scriptures**

All that is necessary is plainly and fully revealed in the Word of God, with all that we need to know, and therefore we may not add to the Scriptures in any way, whether from old traditions, or novel inventions, we are limited to what the Word of God says. There are curses which will fall upon those who add or take away from it.

## **VII. The things of salvation are plainly revealed**

Though there are some parts of Scripture which are not easily understood, the way of salvation is clear. Though the Holy Spirit must open the heart and the mind to receive the things of God, and to turn the man to Christ, yet all that is needed to be known about these things is set forth. And the Scriptures in this matter are clear so that the simplest person could understand them.

## **VIII. The final authority of the Hebrew and Greek texts**

In all matter of controversy over certain Scriptures, and how words have been translated, then the texts in the original languages are to be consulted. Nonetheless, all people who have the Word of God in a language they can understand have a duty to read it, and study it in their language. The texts we believe to be inspired are the Hebrew Masoretic and the Greek Received Texts. The most accurate translation of these in the English language is the Authorized (King James) Version.

## **IX. Scripture is self-interpreting**

When we come to studying the Scriptures, and understanding their meaning and application, the most important thing to remember is that we must compare Scripture with Scripture, for it is sufficient in itself.

## **X. The authority in all controversies of religion**

In all controversies over religious matters, the Scriptures are for us to make the deciding point—to have the first word and the last.

A thorough study of the 1689 2<sup>nd</sup> London Baptist Confession of Faith (1<sup>st</sup> article) is strongly recommended

# John the Baptist

## BIOGRAPHIES OF BIBLE CHARACTERS

Learning from the lives of those who find a place in Holy Scripture

John the Baptist was a man who immediately preceded Christ. He was not the Messiah, the promised Saviour, but he pointed him out, he prepared the people for him, and he sent people to Christ. This was the man who said: “Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world”. He was a man who was happy to be out of the spotlight, a humble man, content with his lot. There are many lessons we may learn from him.

His life is easily summed up. He was born miraculously to parents who were too old to naturally bear children. His mother was related to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Of his early life we know nothing, but at around thirty years old, maybe, for we do not know this from Scripture, he began his ministry. He was the last of the prophets, proclaiming Christ to come. He was given the great privilege of announcing the Saviour who had come to the people. He was at last imprisoned by Herod for his faithful reproof of Herod’s sins, and in a relatively short time he was beheaded.

There are certain lessons we may learn from this man:

**I. Humility.** We ought to be content for God to have the glory, and to take none for ourselves. We ought to be humble before others.

**II. Self-Denial.** We ought to be content with a scanty living. John the Baptist lived on the poorest of food, with poorest of clothing.

**III. Confidence.** We ought to be very confident in proclaiming Christ our Saviour. Will you be found to be ashamed of Jesus?

**IV. Doubts.** Despite his confidence, in prison he had doubts. But in doubts, he sends to hear word from Christ, and so we cry out to God.

**V. Suffering.** We ought to be content even if we are afflicted for Christ’s sake. Remember the apostle Paul—rejoicing in every case.

May God give us grace to be those who humbly point to Jesus Christ.

# The Book of Genesis

## OUTLINES OF BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

Seeing Christ and the Gospel in every book of the Word of God

Here, in the very first book of the Scriptures, the Gospel may be found. No sooner has man fallen, but God will come to find him out, to call so graciously and tenderly “Where are thou?”. He comes with a message of hope, as seen in Genesis 3:15.

We see this text most wonderfully fulfilled in Christ, who would ultimately be the seed of the woman spoken of here. Isaiah, much later, speaks of Christ being specifically bruised in his prophecy of the coming of Christ (Isaiah 53:5).

We also see that in these early days, as through the whole of the Old Testament age, there were those to whom “The Lord had respect” (Abel, Genesis 4:4), who “walked with God” (Enoch, Genesis 5:22), “found grace in the eyes of the Lord” (Noah, Genesis 6:8), and who received promises of God (Abraham, Genesis 12:2). As we read of Abraham in the New Testament, Christ gives a testimony to his faith.

Abraham was given a special promise which particularly referred to the Messiah, in Genesis 12:2-3. This was first of all concerning the Christ, who should come of the seed of Abraham, but we see also here something of the fact that especially in New Testament times, the Gospel of Jesus Christ would go forth to the Gentiles, and not only to the Jews, who were only here being promised. The line of Abraham would be a blessing to all nations because Christ would come of it, and primarily to it, though he was rejected by many of them.


The book of Genesis also contains many types and shadows of Christ and his salvation. We see, for instance, in the very first chapter, a new creation, something coming into being from nothing, which is what must take place in a heart if it is to be saved. Love to God must be stirred up where there is none, and desires for holiness must be created in a heart bent towards that which is wrong. Repentance and faith must ultimately be worked in hearts where pride rules.



# Now is the Day of Salvation

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:2

From a sermon preached at Bells Yew Green Chapel on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2023  
by William Arrowsmith



We come to consider the words which are to be found in the second verse of the sixth chapter of Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians. We read this: "Behold now is the day of salvation." We have the Apostle here interjecting into his letter to this church at Corinth with this verse, which occurs here in parenthesis. He inserts them here for their benefit, and in doing so he brings out a most fundamentally important truth. He commences the verse by quoting from Isaiah 49:8. Then the Apostle goes on and gives a very brief exposition of these words.

The Lord here gives a promise - "I have heard thee in the time accepted". He has heard the people; therefore there must have been a call of the people first. He says, as it were: "I have heard you in the time which is pleasing to me". You see the sovereignty of God. This is what has been said all those centuries before by the prophet Isaiah; but now the Apostle brings these words home to the Corinthians. Now *it is* the accepted time - *now* it is the day of salvation.

## **I. The attention which is demanded here - BEHOLD!**

You may read it so easily in the text, and maybe it is a word that you never really think about. Perhaps you may think it's a little antiquated. We might now call on each other "look at this", "hear this", "take note of this". This is what he says here. Here we are required to pay special attention to the words which follow. Why does the Apostle want this? It is a matter of life and death; and so much more so with the Apostle, because not only does he speak of matters of life and death in a temporal sense, but rather he speaks of matters of eternal life and death.

He speaks of things not merely of this life, which is but for a time, and which will come to an end at God's appointed time. But he speaks of things after death, once we have perished from off of this Earth. These are truly matters of life and death, concerning eternity. Thus the much greater weight is placed upon these words. Behold the words of the Apostle - which are the words of God this morning to you: "Now is the day of salvation." You must pay attention to this.



## **II. The main theme and focus of this text - SALVATION!**

The hymn writer writes: "Salvation, O the joyful sound!". But what if salvation has no joyful ring to it to you this morning? Perhaps it is just a word you are very familiar with, but your head has no comprehension of its meaning, and your heart has no comprehension of the feeling of the matter. Perhaps you know something of it in the head, but at the same time it has not travelled from your head to your heart; and therefore it remains in your head, and there it does you no good whatsoever.

What is salvation? In the broadest terms, it is a saving of someone from danger or great trouble. What does the Apostle mean by it here? I have already mentioned that this is dealing with far higher and deeper things than the things merely of this Earth. So it is, and this applies to the word salvation. This is not a mere temporal salvation. It is not merely salvation from temporal afflictions, troubles, trials, and distresses. It is a saving of the soul from Hell. He speaks here of salvation that is the saving of your eternal soul from that just desert of your sins, which is Hell. That is what salvation he is talking of here.

The soul of a man is a hard thing to describe. We may consider the soul to be the very being of a man. It is the soul where your chiefest and highest affections dwell. The soul is often described in the Scriptures as the heart.

Man's rebellious heart cannot keep the high laws and standards of God, and therefore all are naturally condemned to Hell. But the Apostle speaks of salvation, and that from Hell. How can this be? This salvation may be found because God sent his only begotten Son into the world - you have heard these words before, but let them come afresh to you now - he sent his only begotten son into the world to save sinners. This is why Christ died upon the cross for sins which he had not committed.

It is not a salvation from all the bad things in this world, but it is salvation from all the bad things in the next. Not salvation from all these temporal problems which so often we groan under, but it is a salvation which enables the Apostle to say "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

It gives hope and such confidence in a man that though he should endure much suffering, and trials, and troubles, and burdens in this present life, he is assured that in the next he will have rest and joy. The man without Christ has no real and solid hope, and is a most miserable man all the days of his life,

and more misery after death. These are serious things and miserable things.

But now is the day when there is hope to be obtained. Now is the time when there may be hope and confidence in the Lord to be found. A purpose for living, a real reason for doing your work every day, a reason for carrying on with a cycle of things as they go on; and a purpose about that, evident in a certain intent - because you do all things as unto the Lord. But this is only found in Christ. All the trifling joys of this world last but for a moment. They bring short-lived joy, but this is eternal, lasting joy in Christ Jesus, even though there may be much affliction.

### **III. The striking words to describe the period of time - THE DAY!**

“The *day* of salvation” signifies above all else that it is a short and limited period of time. But this is a time which is passing with every tick of the clock.

It is a bounded time and a fixed time. You know very well that a day has bounds to it: the day runs as it were from midnight until midnight and after those times and before those times, it is another day. It is therefore fixed and firmly bound into position. The day of salvation, then, is the same. It is no unlimited, vast period of time which has no bounds; to it but it is a period of time which will and must end.

This day of salvation is not something which will endure forever. It is not that the Apostle is saying, “Now is the day of salvation”, inferring that it will continue for all eternity to be the day of salvation. This is not what he means, and it is quite clear here - it is only a day.

It will not be long before the night is upon us, and once the evening comes upon us, we know that the day is nearly at its end.

Does this not put some more urgency upon this matter. Have you called upon the Lord? Now is the day of salvation. Do not put it off until tomorrow. Do not tarry until tomorrow. You must run to the throne of grace as fast as you can! Who knows but that indeed we may not see this day out. But the day of salvation may come to an end for some, if not all, of us.

It is an urgent matter - it is a matter of utmost importance that you call upon the name of the Lord. Come to him and seek out his salvation. The world will be burnt up with fire one day. And in that day all men will immediately be summoned before the judgment seat of Christ and then it will be as though they had died. They may not have seen death on this Earth and yet they will be swiftly transported from this life into the next, and brought before the judgment seat of Christ - and what will you do then?

You will not be given any time to think then. He may call any one of us away from the earth, or he may come in great triumph to conquer the world, and to conquer wickedness finally, and to call all men to stand before him - what will you do then? You think of all your grand phrases, and words that you will say to the Lord when you stand before him; and you think blasphemously. When you stand before God, you will not have a word in your mouth if you do not know Christ. You will be one of those of whom we read in the scriptures that they called upon the mountains to cover them.

When you must be judged, you must be condemned if you know not Christ. This day is coming: the great, the last, the final, the Grand Day of judgment - but are you ready for it? The day of salvation will not always be. It must come to an end.

#### **IV. The present reality of the day of salvation - IT IS NOW!**

Do not put these things off. Do not wait for a certain period of time when you feel that you can become a Christian. It will do you no good to be "almost a Christian" at the end of the day of salvation.

Now! It is now or never! It may well be so with some we may be granted that we may see another Lord's Day; but you know not whether that will be you. If the Lord comes or calls us home, there will be no more chance of repentance, there will be no more possibility of turning from sin to Christ to be saved - that will be it.

Will you serve the Lord, or not? Will you turn from your sins? Or will you continue in them?

Let me just press this matter once more. Do not rest until you have found this salvation in Christ. Seek it out till you have found it. Never give up seeking this salvation if you have it not, and if you cannot say with any confidence that you know Christ Jesus, that he dwells in your heart, that he is truly your Saviour and your Lord, that you have repented of your sins, and cast all upon him. Search it out and never cease until you have found him. You need him desperately and urgently, for the time is short.

Leave it off no more; seek to be close to your Lord. And if you know him not, come to him now. He will hear you, for this is his accepted time, and this is his appointed day of salvation. Come now to Christ.

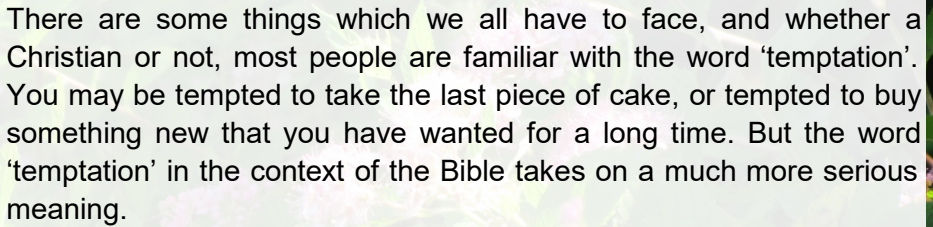
May the Lord bless these things to us, help us to be faithful to him, and save souls by his spirit, through his matchless grace, in this his appointed day of salvation. Amen



# Resisting Temptation

## PERSONAL PROBLEMS

Seeking to form a Scriptural foundation with which to combat the challenges of life



There are some things which we all have to face, and whether a Christian or not, most people are familiar with the word 'temptation'. You may be tempted to take the last piece of cake, or tempted to buy something new that you have wanted for a long time. But the word 'temptation' in the context of the Bible takes on a much more serious meaning.

### **I. What is temptation?**

Temptation is the first thoughts and ideas of doing something which is wrong. The modern, common usage waters it down. It seems to suggest that it is something not necessarily wrong at all, and which would do you good. But in Scripture it is exclusively speaking of that which will, if not resisted, lead to sin against God. It could be described as the fiery darts which Satan sends to us. Thoughts which come into our minds, which it is hard to tell whether they came from our own evil hearts, or from an external source. Sometimes things that we see can tempt us to act or to ponder at any length on things that we should never think about, and things we hear likewise.

### **II. Is temptation itself a sin?**

Temptation itself is not a sin. But it so very easily leads us to sin, and therefore it is a great danger. If we do not respond in the right way to temptation, then we will fall into sin. Temptation should be to us a warning sign of sin, that we may fall into. It should alarm us, and cause us to be the more on our guard, and not fall into a happy naivety of the wiles of the devil.

### **III. Biblical examples of temptation**

When Joseph was enslaved by his brethren, and sold into Egypt, he became the servant of Potiphar, a notable man in Egypt. He was tempted, however, by Potiphar's wife, to immorality. He refused this

temptation, and he suffered for it, being cast into prison after Potiphar's wife misrepresented the whole situation.

David fell by temptation. He saw Bath-sheba bathing on the roof, and he was tempted by what he saw. The first sight perhaps was unavoidable, but he looked again, and continued to look. This led to him falling into great sin with her, who was married to another man.

We have also the example of our Saviour, Christ, who was tempted by Satan. He was tempted, but he resisted the temptation, and was ultimately victorious in it.

#### **IV. What forms may temptation take?**

Temptation may come from other people around us, perhaps even well-meaning people, who lead us astray. We must be careful who we make close friends of, and who we trust. We may well be tempted by things that we see, that we hear, and through what we feel even.

We may be tempted to doubt God, and his promises. We may be tempted to outward and open sin, though it be committed in secret. We may be tempted to overindulgence. We may be tempted to do things which are of no profit, though apparently of no harm. What does Satan like better than a professing Christian who does nothing profitable, but wastes his time away with fears or amusements!

#### **V. What can we do to resist temptation?**

First of all, we must have Christ, seek to have a close walk with God, and spend much time regularly in Bible reading and prayer. This is important in the long run. This is an important preventative measure.

This must be in place. But when you are faced with the temptation, and conscience alerts you to danger. What must be done now?

- 1. Flee.** Avoid places of tempting, and leave if the circumstance suits.
- 2. Pray.** Turn your mind to Christ, and pray for deliverance from it.
- 3. Read.** It may be appropriate to read the Scriptures, to distract.
- 4. Think.** In a habitual temptation, remember Christ bleeding to death. Yet, when I fall, I shall arise. Jesus Christ receiveth sinful men.

# Gustavus Adolphus

## CHURCH HISTORY

Surveying and learning from events and people in the history of the church of Jesus Christ

Gustavus Adolphus was one man in the time of the Reformation who lived a turbulent life as a king and successful military commander from Sweden, who was taught in the art of warfare from the cradle, and died fighting on the battlefield for the cause of the Protestant Christians in Germany. He did not die in vain.

Though many Christians would say that a man of God should not fight, the cause in this case was a just and right one, and the manner in which it the fighting was undertaken was a godly one, without question. He was fighting for the liberty of the Protestants, who were being tyrannised by the Catholics.

This was a man who, every morning, led his entire army in devotions, putting many of us in more comfortable circumstances to shame. Not only was he godly in public, but he walked very closely with his God in private, and his Christian attitude earned him a great deal of respect from his soldiers. If you truly seek after a close walk with God, and you spend much time in prayer and reading of the Scriptures, and meditating on the Word of God, it will affect your character. The faithful people of God will love you the more, and you will be hated the more by those who oppose the church. Moses came down the mount with a shining countenance, so it ought to be with us after we have been with God.

Determined, rigorous in discipline, and yet gracious to his enemies, refusing to slay in cold blood—Gustavus was loved by his men, and really hated by his enemies. They constantly sought to murder this man, but despite it being urged upon him, he refused to have a bodyguard. He refused to doubt God's providence. This was a man who was faithful to death, and ready to die whenever the Lord called for him. God grant us grace that we may be so ready!

To learn more of this man of God, read C. A. LaCroix's "*Gustavus Adolphus: A Hero of the Reformation*".

# Psalm 1

SCOTTISH METRICAL PSALTER, 1650

To be sung to the tune Azmon, otherwise known as Denfield

That man hath perfect blessedness,  
Who walketh not astray  
In counsel of ungodly men,  
Nor stands in sinners' way,

Nor sitteth in the scorner's chair:  
But placeth his delight  
Upon God's law, and meditates  
On his law day and night.

He shall be like a tree that grows  
Near planted by a river,  
Which in his season yields his fruit,  
And his leaf fadeth never:

And all he doth shall prosper well  
The wicked are not so;  
But like they are unto the chaff,  
Which wind drives to and fro.

In judgment therefore shall not stand  
Such as ungodly are;  
Nor in th' assembly of the just  
Shall wicked men appear.

For why? the way of godly men  
Unto the Lord is known:  
Whereas the way of wicked men  
Shall quite be overthrown.

**For to me to live is Christ,  
and to die is gain.**

**Philippians 1:21**

