

THE ORANGE BANNER

"The Protestant Religion and Liberties of England I will maintain"
- William III, Prince of Orange

*"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee,
that it may be displayed because of the truth" - Psalm 60:4*

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What a Waste of Money!

On January 30th 1972 thirteen people were killed and fourteen people were wounded in Londonderry when the Army opened fire on nationalist republicans. It was the event that came to be known historically as "Bloody Sunday" and since then there has been many attempts to blame the Army exclusively for what took place on that day and to exonerate the Provisional IRA of any involvement.

For nearly the past seven years the Saville Inquiry, set up by the Prime Minister Tony Blair, has met in the Guildhall in Londonderry to investigate the events of that day. The inquiry finally came to a close at the end of November 2004. It had heard evidence from a total of 921 individual witnesses and read statements from a further 1555 people. The cost to the taxpayer now stands at an estimated £155m and Lord Saville, the chairman of the inquiry, is expected to send his report to the Government during the summer of this year. With such a long time period between the event and the inquiry one must ask whether the evidence obtained can be accurate for it is not easy to remember vividly what took place some thirty years ago. It is thought unlikely that the report will be conclusive one way or the other and hence it will have been a total waste of money!

Northern Ireland Peace Talks Update

At the time of going to press, the beginning of December 2004, it is not known whether the ongoing talks at restoring devolution in Northern Ireland have succeeded or not. It is thought that the key proposals under consideration by the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein were complete and verified IRA decommissioning before the end of the year, the arrangements for transferring policing and justice powers to the Northern Ireland Assembly, ministers being more accountable to the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly, new East/West arrangements to strengthen the British Isles context of the Belfast Agreement, and a review of the cross border bodies.

There have been no direct negotiations between the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein, and the discussions have been through the mediations of the British and Irish governments who issued a joint peace paper in an attempt to break the deadlock. Clarifications have been given to both parties and a decision was expected by the first full week in December. It seems to have been accepted that some changes to the Belfast Agreement were necessary, but whether the proposed changes are acceptable to both unionist and republican remains to be seen.

Lodge News

North Essex Celebrates

The North Essex Martyrs Memorial L.O.L. 45 celebrated its most successful year to date at their recent Annual Dinner. The principal guest was Bro. Rev. Martin Smyth, M.P., who spoke on “Orangesim Worldwide” and the current situation in Northern Ireland. Other guests included Metropolitan Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Garry Mills, and City of London District Officers.

Presentations were made to Councillor Douglas James and Councillor John Davey, former local Town Mayors, for their staunch support of Unionism over many years. Bro. Michael Prior, a founder Member of the Lodge, was presented with an engraved “Siege of Drumcree” Medal in belated recognition of his support for Northern Ireland Brethren during July 1996. Bro. Owen Wilson, the Immediate Past Master, was presented with a Past Master’s Jewel.

The Lodge’s membership is at an all time high – undoubtedly encouraged by a varied programme of activities. During the last year these have included participation in parades at Ballymena, Corby and London, and a lecture on the Essex Regiment’s history. A visit to Olympia House, the Grand Lodge of Scotland’s H.Q., is one of the events planned for 2005.

King William Dinner

Victoria’s Pride LOL 788 held their annual King William Dinner on November 4th when eighteen members and guests enjoyed a fine evening at a local Bolton restaurant.

Ladies Lodge Centenary

The Beresford Ladies LOL 45 celebrated their centenary on Friday November 12th at the Liverpool Provincial Headquarters. A fine buffet was enjoyed and the Pride of Norris Green Band provided music.

International Scripture Exam

Representatives of the Junior Orange Institution took part in the International Scripture Exam on Saturday November 13th in Liverpool. There are three sections – Junior Section (age 7 to 9), Intermediate Section (age 10 to 12), and Senior Section (age 13 to 15). The exam was followed by the annual Junior Prize giving.

New Lodge in Yorkshire District

Congratulations on the forming of “Ryedale’s Chosen Few” LOL 1875 in Malton. The lodge number is associated with the Green Howard’s; an Army Regiment that has historic links with the Yorkshire town. The lodge was formed from members of Lord Louis Mountbatten Memorial LOL 781 in Scarborough.

For your diary the annual Scarborough parade will take place this year on Saturday March 26th.

The Heidelberg Catechism

Part One

Introduction

The Heidelberg Catechism was written in Heidelberg at the request of Elector Frederick III, the ruler of the most influential German province, the Palatinate, from 1559 to 1576. The prince commissioned Zacharius Ursinus, professor of theology at the Heidelberg University, and Caspar Olevianus, Frederick's court preacher, to prepare a catechism for instructing the youth and for guiding pastors and teachers. The Catechism was soon divided into fifty-two sections so that a section of the Catechism could be explained to the churches on each Lord's Day of the year.

Lord's Day 1

Question 1 - What is your only comfort in life and death?

Answer - That I am not my own,[1] but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death,[2] to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ.[3] He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil.[5] He also preserves me in such a way[6] that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head;[7] indeed, all things must work together for my salvation.[8] Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life[9] and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.[10]

[1] I Cor. 6:19, 20 [2] Rom. 14:7-9. [3] I Cor. 3:23; Tit. 2:14. [4] I Pet. 1:18, 19; I John 1:7; 2:2. [5] John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14, 15; I John 3:8. [6] John 6:39, 40; 10:27-30; II Thess. 3:3; I Pet. 1:5. [7] Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18. [8] Rom. 8:28. [9] Rom. 8:15, 16; II Cor. 1:21, 22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13, 14. [10] Rom. 8:14.

Question 2 - What do you need to know in order to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

Answer - First, how great my sins and misery are;[1] second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery;[2] third, how I am to be thankful to God for such deliverance.[3]

[1] Rom. 3:9, 10; I John 1:10. [2] John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43. [3] Matt. 5:16; Rom. 6:13; Eph. 5:8-10; I Pet. 2:9, 10.

Lord's Day 2

Question 3 - From where do you know your sins and misery?

Answer - From the law of God.[1]

[1] Rom. 3: 20

Question 4 - What does God's law require of us?

Answer - Christ teaches us this in a summary in Matthew 22: You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.[1] This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the

prophets.[2]

[1] Deut. 6:5. [2] Lev. 19:18.

Question 5 - Can you keep all this perfectly?

Answer - No,[1] I am inclined by nature to hate God and my neighbour.[2]

[1] Rom. 3:10, 23; 1 John 1:8, 10. [2] Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 7:23; 8:7; Eph. 2:3; Tit. 3:3.

No Peel!

A door at Christ Church University in Oxford has the words “No Peel” studded into it, and this is a reference to Sir Robert Peel and his support for the Catholic Emancipation Act in 1829. Sir Robert Peel was a former student at Christ Church.

English Orangeism and the Great War

By
Brother Jack Greenald

Part One

The First World War has been described as Orangeism’s greatest triumph and its heaviest defeat. Its greatest triumph in the number of Orangemen who volunteered to join the war effort, and its heaviest defeat in that so many Orangemen did not return.

Rallying to the Colours

When the war was declared in 1914 many English Orangemen volunteered to serve in the armed forces. Throughout 1914 and 1915 lodges reported that their members were enlisting. This effected both young and senior members of the Institution: LOL 844 from Sheffield reported that their youngest member had joined the City Battalion in November 1914, whilst the Bootle Provincial Lodge needed a new secretary to replace Bro McQuarrie who had enlisted.

In some lodges a large percentage of members volunteered: Sons of William LOL 652 had 160 out of 177 members on active service, and LOL 853 from York reported that every member was assisting the Crown in Military or Naval service or government department work. Over a third of the members of Heart of Oak LOL 1 from Liverpool joined the colours, most of them with the Ulster Division.

Pride of Poulton LOL 835 had twelve members at the front including Bro H. Williams with the 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment, who was reported missing after the Battle of Mons. No Surrender LOL 805 had members in the Lancashire Hussars Yeomanry, Gordon Highlanders and Kitchener’s Army. Liverpool Heroes LOL 374 had six members of the lodge in the army, including the Deputy Master Bro R. Harrison who joined the Inniskilling Fusiliers.

Recruitment Campaign

In the latter part of 1915 a special recruiting campaign was held. The first meeting was held at Birmingham Town Hall on October 25th. The Grand Secretary, Bro Revd Louis Ewart, chaired the meeting. Sir Edward Carson sent the following message: "I am glad to hear you are holding a great patriotic meeting at the Town Hall, Birmingham. I am very proud of the splendid number of men and heroes that the Orange Institution has sent to serve their King and Country, and that you are still determined to persevere in recruiting for the Army and Navy and munitions work. The country needs the effort of every man to do his duty enthusiastically and with the enthusiasm which is born of the passionate love of his country in every true son of the empire."

The Chairman of the meeting said, "The Orange Order was doing its duty. Thousands of brethren had come from all parts of the world to defend the honour and integrity of the Old Country. The Order was suffering at the present time because such large numbers of its members had enlisted, but they were proud of the fact that its temporary weakness had become the Empire's strength."

Among those who also gave speeches were Bro W. Watson Rutherford MP, Grand Master of England, Bro Alderman J.W.D. Barron JP, Deputy Grand Master, and Bro Lieutenant J. Donnelly, who spoke on behalf of the Ulster Division.

The 1916 Grand Lodge of England Report included a Roll of Honour of those who were serving with the colours, which was comprised of over 1500 names from over 60 lodges. This tremendous record of recruitment played havoc with Orange activity back in England. LOL 287 from Devonport reported, "we cannot even get a special meeting, all our brethren are either at the front, sea and land, or at work in the yards".

The Grand Secretary reported in 1916, "The majority of English Orangemen have enlisted and I am glad to be able to say that the Compulsion Bill has only taken a very small number from our ranks, which proves the loyalty of our men who did not wait to be fetched. At the commencement of the war we had as many as 155 out of 167 enlisting from one lodge alone. . . . We are having a hard struggle to keep the old Orange Flag flying in England, owing to our depleted ranks, but we are determined to go forward at all costs, nailing our colours to the mast, fighting for those principles which have made our Empire so great and free."

12th of July

In 1915 the Liverpool Province abandoned their 12th July parade due to the fact that over a thousand Liverpool Orangemen had enlisted and many had been wounded or killed. Instead a service was held. A report of the proceedings stated, "owing to the terrible war the usual 12 July demonstration was not held by the Province, but a solemn and impressive service was held at Putton Hall on July 11 at 3 o' clock. The various districts paraded to the Hall, a remarkable feature of the parade being the large number of men in khaki, some wounded, others on a short leave from the trenches. A large number of sailors also took part."

To be continued.

Book Review

Battlefield Britain by Peter and Dan Snow, hardback with 224 pages and published by BBC Books.

During August and September 2004 a series of programs entitled “Battlefield Britain” was broadcast on BBC2. The journalist and TV presenter Peter Snow and his historian son Dan presented a number of fascinating and interesting programmes on British battles. These were: -

Boudicca’s Battle with Rome AD 60-1

The Battle of Hastings 1066

The Battle for Wales 1400-1410

The Spanish Armada 1588

The Battle of Naseby 1645

The Battle of the Boyne 1690

The Battle of Culloden 1746

The Battle of Britain 1940

For members of the Orange Institution the “Battle of the Boyne” was probably the highlight of the series. A hardback book of the series has now been published and if you enjoyed the series on television you will probably also enjoy this book. It is in colour with many photographs and drawings. It is thoroughly recommended.

The recommended price for the book is £16.99, but if you have access to the Internet it can be obtained for just over £10 plus postage. For further details of buying books on the Internet use www.bookbrain.co.uk and this will give you a number of options and prices where the book can be obtained.

Lodge Cards

NORTH ESSEX MARTYRS MEMORIAL L.O.L. 45 meets on the third Saturday each month in Harlow. Membership enquiries and visiting Brethren warmly welcomed.

STAR OF HALEWOOD BISHOP J.C. RYLE MEMORIAL L.O.L. 66 meets the first Thursday of every month at 8pm from February to December at the Orange Hall, Heald Street, Garston, Liverpool. Further details can be obtained via e-mail: -
ianthompson@orangenet.org.

THE IVY L.O.L. 783 meets at 6:30pm on the second Saturday in each month at the Provincial Headquarters, Everton Road, Liverpool. New members welcome.

VICTORIA'S PRIDE L.O.L. 788 meets the third Thursday of each month in the centre of Bolton. New members and visitors most welcome.

BLACKPOOL FAITH DEFENDERS L.O.L. 2001 meets the first Tuesday of every month in Blackpool. Telephone 07787858614 for further details.

QUEEN ELIZABETH L.L.O.L. 2001 meet on the third Saturday of the month in Corby. Visitors are always welcome. Any new member enquiries please contact by phone 01536 205450 or by e-mail to Secll0l2001corby@aol.com.

BLACKPOOL FIRST FLUTE BAND – for further details see www.freewebs.com/blackpoolfirstflute.

For further details of membership and the Biblical principles of Orangeism please contact the editor of The Orange

Banner.

Banner Pulpit: -

Romans 1:17

In Romans 1:16-17 we find a summary of the gospel and it is these two verses on which the apostle Paul builds the rest of this epistle to the early Christian church in the pagan city of Rome. Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is teaching us the way of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and how it can make us wise unto salvation.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17)

To the Jews the gospel message of Christ crucified was a stumbling block for they were looking for an earthly king as the promised Messiah. They were looking at that period of history for someone who would defeat the Romans as an all-conquering hero. The idea of a Saviour being put to death as a substitute sin bearer was far beyond their reasoning and so they rejected the message of the gospel and the promised salvation of God. To the Greek or Gentile this concept of substitutionary atonement was pure foolishness and not worthy of their attention.

The simple message of the gospel of Christ and him crucified is in every generation either a stumbling block or foolishness to the multitudes of this world. They are blind to the divine truth of the scripture and they will not listen and hear the word of God speak to their eternal souls. Man in his pride wants to be a part of his salvation and so people want a salvation that includes their so-called works of righteousness, and they reject a salvation that is all of the grace or undeserved gift of God from beginning to end.

The apostle Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, but are you?

Are you trusting in some way in your own effort as your means of acceptance before God or are you trusting in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ alone?

The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. It is a message that can be understood and believed by people of every age whether they are an adult or a child, for it is the power of God unto salvation. In other words it is the means or the instrument by which Almighty God speaks to the souls of his people. It is primarily through the preaching of the gospel that the Holy Spirit works in the heart by giving a knowledge and understanding of the gospel message, by convicting a person of their sin and guiltiness before a holy and just God, and by showing them in the Lord Jesus Christ a Saviour who is willing and able to save all that come unto the Father by him.

Have you so believed on the Lord Jesus Christ?

It was a gospel message that in the times of the Old Testament was primarily for only the Jewish people, and then with the coming of the New Testament church the door was opened to the Greek or the Gentile. It was to the Jew first and then to the Gentile.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:16-17)

Now the effectiveness of the gospel comes from it teaching the true method of how a person is justified before the

living and true God, that is the method of justification by faith and faith alone. Martin Luther used to describe this biblical doctrine as the mark of a standing or a falling church, and sadly how few churches preach this truth of scripture today.

The gospel of Christ is not the power of God unto salvation because of the moral law of God that it contains or because it reveals and confirms that there will be a day of judgment where each one of us will stand before God to give an account of our lives, but because the righteousness of a holy and a just God is revealed to us in it.

The righteousness of God mentioned in verse seventeen is not speaking of a divine attribute of God such as his justice, goodness and truth for it is a righteousness that is attained by faith. Elsewhere in scripture we are told that it is a righteousness without the law,

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:” (Romans 3:24)

It is also a righteousness that is given as a gift,

“For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:17)

In addition it is not a righteousness that is not of us,

“For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.” (Romans 10:3)

It is a righteousness that comes from God,

“And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:” (Philippians 3:9)

The righteousness of God is, therefore, the righteousness of which God is the author or of which God approves. The gospel of Christ reveals a righteousness that Almighty God gives and that God approves.

We are talking here of the way of our justification before a holy God. God is our creator and moral governor and judge, and we are placed under a law that is the rule of our duty and also the standard by which we shall be judged. Those people who comply with the demands of the law are classed as righteous and those who break the law are classed as unrighteous. Those people who are righteous; that is who have the righteousness that the law demands are justified and they have earned the favour of God.

However, nobody in himself or herself is righteous in the sight of God. Just one sin is sufficient to condemn a person to a lost eternity, and so the scriptures rightly point out that there is none righteous, no not one. Nobody can make him or herself righteous and attain the righteousness that the law demands, and that is necessary to be accepted of God. The law of God demands perfect obedience and simply no mere human being can attain to it, and so the works of the law can justify nobody before the sovereign LORD God who inhabits heaven and earth.

“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:20)

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” (Galatians 2:16)

“Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.” (Galatians 3:21)

The scriptures are quite plain we are not justified by our own righteousness, and yet righteousness is absolutely necessary to our justification and salvation. The gospel of Christ reveals to us such a righteousness, a righteousness that is without the law and without works, a righteousness that is by faith. It is a righteousness that is not of our own, and it is imputed or put to our account without works.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our righteousness and we become righteous before God in him.

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:” (1 Corinthians 1:30)

“For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The nature of this righteousness is one of the great designs of this epistle of the apostle Paul and of the whole gospel itself. This righteousness will be unfolded and revealed more fully as you progress through the teaching of this epistle.

Now some people wrongly believe that righteousness cannot be obtained by obedience to the ritual law of the Jews, but in doing morally good works. For example the Church of Rome teaches that we have an inherent righteousness or spiritual excellence that is obtained by the help of divine grace through the church sacraments. Works done without grace and before regeneration are classed as legal works and these would be excluded from your justification.

Be very clear in your own minds that the righteousness by which the people of God are justified is not from us doing anything towards it, and that it is a righteousness that has been done for us, and that is imputed to us. It is the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ alone – what he did and suffered to satisfy the demands of the law. Excluded is religious works of any kind done by us. Therefore it is a righteousness that is not our own, it is nothing that we have worked for ourselves or that is in us.

Christ alone is our righteousness and his blood, his death and his obedience justify us. We are righteous in him and we are justified by him or in his name or for his sake. In other words the righteousness of God that is revealed in the gospel is the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ that perfectly and completely satisfies and answers all the demands of the law that we are subject to, and that which we have also broken. Without receiving the righteousness of God as it is found in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ as the ground of our acceptance we have no part or lot in the salvation of the gospel.

On what are you trusting for salvation?

Is it the finished work of Christ or in yourself that you seeking justification before Almighty God?

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17)

This righteousness of God that brings salvation is from faith to faith, that is it is faith alone without the works of the law. Faith is not and never is the cause of salvation, but it is the means by which we receive the perfect righteousness of our blessed Lord and Redeemer. The reference here to Habakkuk 2:4 shows us that salvation and

the favour of God has always been received by faith. The salvation of the Old Testament and the salvation of the New Testament are essentially one and the same – faith in a coming Saviour and faith in a Saviour who has been.

“From faith to faith” in verse seventeen has the same effect of “to every one that believeth” in verse sixteen. The righteousness of God is received by faith to every one that believes. The righteousness of God is freely imputed to a sinner by God’s sovereign grace on the basis of Christ’s substitutionary atonement, and it is made one’s own possession by the means of God given faith. It is without doubt a doctrine to destroy all the all the wisdom and righteousness of salvation by works and of man. It is the gospel that must be preached from every pulpit in this land.

Now the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who exercises faith and believes. The gift of faith is of God and the power to exercise it is of God, but the exercise of faith itself is not the operation of God for it is you who must believe the gospel and it is you who must repent of your sins and it is you who must trust in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Have you this saving faith – forsaking all I trust him – or are you still trusting in yourself?

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” (Romans 1:17)

The righteousness of God has indeed been revealed in the preaching of the gospel of Christ and him crucified, but have you believed it and have you received by faith the gift of God’s eternal salvation? Amen.