

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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Return of Devolved Government in Northern Ireland

Elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly took place on March 7th of this year, and overall the positions of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) under the leadership of Dr Ian Paisley and Sinn Fein were strengthened. The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) and the SDLP both lost seats to their rivals within the unionist and nationalist traditions respectively.

Initially it was said by the Government that unless the parties agreed to devolution by a March 26th deadline the Assembly would be dissolved and direct rule from London and Dublin imposed. This would have been joint rule from the British and Irish governments and an increased threat of an imposed united Ireland. We need to remember that the current British Government is not a friend of unionism, but rather it has been a constant appeaser of republican terrorism.

The result was what would have been unthinkable even just a few years ago – the Democratic Unionist Party going into a devolved government in partnership with Sinn Fein! Dr Paisley will now be the First Minister and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein as the Deputy First Minister. There are many people who thought that this would never happen, and this has already led to resignations from with the DUP as their party will now govern the Province in co-operation with Sinn Fein.

On the face of it there appears to be little distinction between the current proposed arrangements and the Belfast Agreement that led to the fall of David Trimble and the Ulster Unionist Party. It will take time to see whether the negotiated fine tuning will have its desired effect of bringing Sinn Fein into democracy and being accountable, and also supporting law and order.

Northern Ireland deserves lasting peace and justice, and we trust that this will continue to be your prayer.

Lodge News

Manchester Cathedral Anniversary Service

The Grand Orange Lodge of England 200th Anniversary Service was held at Manchester Cathedral on Sunday February 18th 2007. The attendance at the service was estimated by the Cathedral authorities as being between three hundred and fifty and four hundred people. Members were present from each of the Provinces within the English jurisdiction as well as visitors from Northern Ireland and the local community.

Senior Chaplains within the Orange Institution in England took a leading part in the conducting of the

service. Rt. Wor. Rev. Bro. P.J. Rimmer HDGC read from the Old Testament – Psalm 46; the Grand Chaplain of England Rt. Wor. Brother J.R.G. Harvey read from the New Testament – Ephesians 2:1-20; and Rt. Wor. Bro. P.L. Williams HDGC led the prayers of intercession.

The address was given by the Rev. Canon Paul Denby, Sub Dean of Manchester Cathedral. He had done a great deal of research into the Orange Institution over the last couple of months and he had found a plaque in the Cathedral in memory of a Colonel Samuel Taylor of Manchester. Though there is no mention of it on the plaque Colonel Taylor was in fact the first Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of England.

The Grand Orange Lodge of England was given a warm welcome by the Cathedral and they hoped that it would not be another two hundred years before we returned!

Oxford Lodge Supports School

At the beginning of each year the members of Oxford LOL 213 choose a good cause to support and then during the year they raise funds by various means. In early 2006 the lodge decided to support the Frank Wise School in Banbury, Oxfordshire, which teaches children with severe or profound learning difficulties.

A total of £500 was raised by members during 2006 and in January 2007 the lodge presented a cheque for this amount to the school. In thanking the lodge the Head Teacher, Kevin Griffiths, said that the donation would be used to improve the infant school playground equipment.

One of the ways that the lodge raised funds in 2006 was to use their web site to sell prints of the Oxford Martyrs Memorial that was painted by the granddaughter of the lodge's first Worshipful Master, Brother Archie Johnston. The Oxford Martyrs Memorial itself benefited from the lodge's fund raising efforts a few years ago when £700 was raised to support its restoration.

Ian Mackey
(Secretary, Oxford Martyrs Memorial LOL 213)

Royal Black Preceptory Annual Dinner in London

Recently R.B.P. 477 "Knights of Enniskillen", London, held their inaugural annual dinner. The impressively attended event was addressed by Sir Knight R. Bather, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of England, who spoke eloquently on what the Black Institution meant to him. The event was enjoyed by all present, including members, wives, and Orangemen thinking of joining the forward looking Preceptory which has encamped in London for over a hundred years.

Tom Parkinson
(Registrar, R.B.P. 477)

William Archive Exhibition

The Grand Lodge of Ireland is holding an exhibition of William artefacts at Schomberg House in Belfast. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Peter Hain MP, performed the opening ceremony at the beginning of March.

It is the first time that a Secretary of State has visited the headquarters of the Orange Order.

Act of Union Parade in Scotland

The Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland held a successful rally and parade in the centre Edinburgh on Saturday March 24th to commemorate the tercentenary of the Act of Union between England and Scotland. The Grand Masters of Scotland, England and Ireland were present with some of their respective Grand Lodge Officers.

It was estimated that there were about twelve thousand people present on the parade. Good weather meant that many people on the streets stopped to watch the parade go through the centre of historic Edinburgh and this included the Royal Mile.

Pride of Preston LOL 282 walked as guests of the Edinburgh District near to the front of the parade. Sisters from Prince William of Wales LLOL 184 in Bolton also walked with them. Other visitors from England were also present with other Scottish lodges.

Commemorative jewels and lapel badges are available from the Grand Orange Lodge of Scotland.

Long Service Award in Bolton

The Rev. Bro. Philip Rimmer HDGC received his 25 Year Jewel at the February meeting of Victoria's Pride LOL 788. The presentation was made by Brother Michael Pickles HDGM, and also present was the Provincial Grand Master Bro. T. Lord and the District Master Bro. W. Douglas.

Brother Rimmer was initially a member of Britain's Glory LOL 15 in Manchester and he was a founder member of LOL 788 when it re-formed in 1985. He has been the Worthy Master of the lodge since it re-opened.

Ladies Lecturers Conference

The annual Ladies Lecturers Conference was held this year in Corby on Saturday April 14th.

Oxford Martyrs' Memorial LOL 213 Dedicate New Bannerette

It was a very proud evening for the Officers and members of Oxford Martyr's Memorial LOL 213 on Wednesday 18th April 2007 when their new bannerette depicting the Martyrs' Memorial in Oxford was dedicated.

The Martyrs' Memorial is an imposing stone monument positioned at the intersection of St Giles', Magdalen Street and Beaumont Street and it is just outside Balliol College. Designed by Sir Gilbert Scott the monument was completed in 1843 after two years work.

The inscription on the base of the memorial reads as follows:

“To the Glory of God, and in grateful commemoration of His servants, Thomas Cranmer, Nicholas Ridley, Hugh Latimer, Prelates of the Church of England, who near this spot yielded their bodies to be burned, bearing witness to the sacred truths which they had affirmed and maintained against the errors of the Church of Rome, and rejoicing that to them it was given not only to believe in Christ, but also to suffer for His sake; this monument was erected by public subscription in the year of our Lord God, MDCCCXLI”.

Order of the Dedication: -

The bannerette was dedicated by Brother the Right Reverend Henry Richmond, Honorary Assistant Bishop of Oxford.

Dedication Prayer:

Almighty and eternal God, our Heavenly Father, we give you thanks that in every age you raise up men and women to bear witness of your love, your righteousness and your truth. Today we commemorate especially, with thanksgiving, your servants and bishops, Thomas Cranmer, Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, who protested against the errors of the Church, and the evils of society, of their day, to the point of giving their lives as your martyrs. As we dedicate this bannerette to your glory, we ask you to grant that the depiction of their memorial here in Oxford may inspire those who shall bear it, follow it and behold it, to take up their cross and follow Christ, who gave up His life for us and for the world, but is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

The Dedication:

To the glory of God, and in the memory of His glorious martyrs, Thomas Cranmer, Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, I dedicate this bannerette, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ian Mackey
(Secretary, LOL 213)

George Marsh Service in Bolton

The annual service to remember the Protestant Martyr George Marsh was held at Deane Parish Church in Bolton on Sunday April 22nd 2007. Nearly fifty people attended the service which is arranged and conducted by members of Victoria's Pride LOL 788. The preacher was Rev. Bro. P.J. Rimmer HDGC who spoke on the vital subject of justification by faith alone.

On the conclusion of the service a wreath was laid at the George Marsh Monument in the church yard by the Provincial Grand Master Bro. T. Lord and two long service awards were presented to members of JLOL 2001. Mr Chris Richards of the Protestant Alliance then spoke briefly on the authority of scripture and Rev. Stephen Holland of the Protestant Truth Society closed in prayer before the National Anthem was sung.

St. George's Day Parade and Service in Liverpool

The annual St George's Day parade and service is planned for Sunday April 29th 2007. The service will held this year in Liverpool Cathedral.

Murdered Brethren Appeal in Ireland

The Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland launched a "Murdered Brethren Appeal" fund on April 5th 2007 to raise an estimated £20,000 for a remembrance stain glass window and a Book of Remembrance in

Schomberg House, the headquarters of the Orange Institution in Ireland. It is thought that 311 members of the Orange Order died in the troubles of which 200 were in the security forces. The launch began with prayer and a minute's silence.

Badges at £2.50, cuff links at £7.50 and tie pins at £4.50 are being sold to raise funds.

The emblem of the appeal is a cross, the global symbol of war graves, with an orange lily based on Martin Luther's rose. These items are available from the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland headquarters.

The Heidelberg Catechism

Part Twelve

Lord's Day 22

Question 57 - What comfort does the resurrection of the body offer you?

Answer - Not only shall my soul after this life immediately be taken up to Christ, my Head,[1] but also this my flesh, raised by the power of Christ, shall be reunited with my soul and made like Christ's glorious body.[2]

[1] Luke 16:22; 23:43; Phil. 1:21-23. [2] Job 19:25, 26; I Cor. 15:20, 42-46, 54; Phil. 3:21; I John 3:2.

Question 58 - What comfort do you receive from the article about the life everlasting?

Answer - Since I now already feel in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, [1] I shall after this life possess perfect blessedness, such as no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived-- a blessedness in which to praise God forever.[2]

[1] John 17:3; Rom. 14:17; II Cor. 5:2, 3. [2] John 17:24; I Cor. 2:9.

To be continued.

Lodge Cards

LORD CARSON MEMORIAL LOL 20 meets at the Ash Centre, Ash Hill Road, Ash, Surrey, at 2.30pm on the third Saturday of each month (DV). New members and visitors are most welcome. For further details contact the Lodge Secretary Rory Mackay at ruairidh57@hotmail.com.

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.

CITY OF CHESTER L.O.L. 375 meets second Monday of each month in the centre of Chester. Visiting Brethren always welcome. Membership enquires from Cheshire and North Wales please phone Dave Reynolds on 0151 3563358.

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 Secllol2001corby@aol.com.

Wm ALEXANDER MEMORIAL L.O.L. 1689 London meet on the second Saturday in central London. New members and visitors welcome. For more details contact T. Parkinson on 078 1581 0763 or tomparkinsonuk@yahoo.co.uk.

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

LONDON PROTESTANT FLUTE BAND require new and experienced musicians. Practice regularly in central London. For more details contact T. Parkinson on 078 1581 0763 or tomparkinsonuk@yahoo.co.uk.

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

Correspondence

Dear Editor,

I recently attended a lecture on “Firing Glasses” and discovered some interesting information on the origins of Kentish Fire. In the eighteenth century political societies used to drink toasts after their meals and these were accompanied by volleys fired from muskets.

A meeting of the Loyal Society of the Blew and Orange in 1787 was mentioned where grenadiers were lined up outside the mess-room windows. This is where the term firing originated.

However, due to the danger and inconvenience of this, over time many organisations, in particular the Freemasons, but also a number of other friendly societies, began to use a glass with a large solid base for toasts, which were then banged down on the table. These were known as Firing Glasses.

Around the time of the passing of the Roman Catholic Emancipation Act, the county of Kent was a hot-bed of the Protestant cause and here the glasses were banged down rhythmically onto the table, what we now know as Kentish Fire.

Yours sincerely,

A. Pearson (W. Secretary, LOL 844)

Banner Pulpit: -

Luke 10:29 Justification by Faith Alone

(The sermon notes of the George Marsh Service held at Deane Parish Church on April 22nd 2007)

Now the Reformation was a time when the doctrines of holy scripture were re-discovered and they were faithfully preached from the many pulpits across this land. It was a time of great revival for true biblical religion as the church came out of the dark ages and declared the salvation of God was to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ and in him alone.

It was Martin Luther who stated that one doctrine in particular could be used to determine whether a church was either a standing or a falling church, that is a church that was doctrinally sound or one that was doctrinally in great error, and that doctrine was that of justification by faith alone. It is a test of true and false churches to this very day.

There are many church people who will accept the doctrine of justification by faith, but not justification by faith alone. It is the word "alone" that denies that one can in some way or other contribute towards our salvation and good standing with God.

One of the puritans was once asked why he was so precise in matters of religion, and he correctly answered that it was because he worshipped a precise God. And as we worship the same precise God we affirm to that the correct name for the doctrine is that of justification by faith alone.

Now in our New Testament reading we read of "a certain Lawyer" who tried to entice and tempt our Lord and Saviour with this rather loaded question,

"Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25)

The Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God fully knew what was behind the question and so the question was reversed,

"What is written in the law? How readest thou?" (Luke 10:26)

Now the Jewish people in general thought that the salvation of God was deserved by being a Jew who kept the law of Moses. There was simply no salvation for the Gentile people of the world. They had the false notion that God would be pleased in their outward keeping of the law of Moses found in the Old Testament, and they had lost sight of the fact that nobody could perfectly keep the law of God and so earn salvation from the keeping of it.

Hence the lawyer answered in words of an Old Testament summary of the law of God,

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." (Luke 10:27)

And so the Lord Jesus Christ answered him according to the letter of the law,

"Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live." (Luke 10:28)

If you want to earn salvation by the works of the law then it must be a perfect obedience to the law, but if

you fail even in just one point of the law then you are judged as a transgressor of the law and then you are under its righteous curse and eternal punishment. The keeping of the law is not only in outward acts, but it is also in the heart and in the mind. And the simple truth of the matter is that no mere human being has ever perfectly kept the law of God. The scriptures teach us that there is none righteous, no not one, and that we are all sinners who have fallen short of the glory of God.

The lawyer, however, was not finished yet, and he thought within himself that the debate was not yet over.

“But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?” (Luke 10:29)

The lawyer no doubt wanted to show everybody present that he was well taught in the rites and the laws of Moses, but he also wanted to show how he was worthy of the salvation of God because of the so-called good life that he led. The parable of the Good Samaritan was then used to show him that he needed to love his enemy if he wanted to fulfil the law with regard to his neighbour.

In his pride the lawyer wanted to vindicate himself, that is he wanted to justify himself, and this is the error of so many people today. People so often think that they are better than they really are. They can frequently see sin in others, but not in themselves. So many people wrongly think that God will be pleased with what they have done and are doing in their lives. They trust perhaps in church attendance or church membership, of being baptized and in partaking of the Lord’s Supper, or perhaps of belonging to the Orange Institution. None of these will ever bring a person to salvation and into the kingdom of heaven. It is only when the reality of sin and its certain punishment is accepted that the great truth of justification by faith alone is fully appreciated and understood.

The question that you need to ask is this - how does a person become justified with God?

In other words, how can sinful people be justified and acceptable with God?

These are questions that bring us to the heart of the doctrine of justification by faith alone. The doctrine is stated, for example, in these words in the Articles of Religion of the Church of England,

“We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by Faith, and not for our own works of deservings”.

In the Westminster Shorter Catechism it says,

“Justification is act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.”

At the centre of justification by faith alone is the grace of God, in the words of Romans 8:33, “*It is God that justifieth*”. Justification is not what we do, but what God has done for us in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now justification does not mean to make or to become good or holy, but rather it is a legal and judicial declaration from a court of law.

The law of God condemns a sinner to a lost eternity, but in justification a guilty sinner is declared to be righteous. Justification is a legal term that describes a change of status in a person. Previously they had been guilty, but now they are declared to be righteous. In justification God declares that ungodly people are righteous in his sight.

In Romans 3:19-24 we read,

“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 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. But now the

righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:”

The way in which God declares the ungodly to be just and to possess righteousness is by what is called in theological terms imputation. In simple terms imputation in this context means to be reckoned or to be put to our account, and this righteousness that is put to our account is the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. In his earthly life our Lord and Saviour kept the law of God perfectly without ever sinning, and this perfect righteousness is imputed or accounted to his people.

And then on the cross of Calvary the Lord Jesus Christ took upon himself the punishment for sin that his people rightly deserved. Our guilt is transferred to him and his righteousness is transferred to us. In this way the justice of God is satisfied because the price of sin has been paid in full and there has been a perfect obedience to the law of God. Without this work of the Lord Jesus Christ in fulfilling the law and dying on our behalf there would be no ground for our justification before a holy and a just LORD God.

So the only ground of our justification is the obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have no righteousness of our own and we must have righteousness to be accepted by God. Therefore there can be no mixing of our own righteousness with the righteousness of our Saviour; it is not of our own works or servings. It is by the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ alone that we are saved.

This obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ is received by faith alone. It is simply receiving and resting on the Lord Jesus Christ and his righteousness. Faith alone is the instrument by which we receive justification. God requires nothing of you except total reliance upon the righteousness and satisfaction of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The moment you begin to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ you are declared legally to be without sin, to be without guilt, to be without future punishment for sin. This declaration doesn't depend upon anything done by you, but on what Christ has done for you. Faith is dependence upon what the Lord Jesus Christ has done and it results in complete and eternal justification.

This is the doctrine of justification by faith alone. It was the doctrine of George Marsh and all of the Reformers, and it is still the doctrine of reformed churches today.

In closing, are you still trying to justify yourself before God, or have you put your trust and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ and what he has done for lost and undeserving sinners?

In John 3:16 it says,

“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.” Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

May 2007

1 Kings

1. Ch.15:1-34
2. Ch.16:1-34
3. Ch.17:1-24
4. Ch.18:1-20
5. Ch.18:21-46
6. Ch.19:1-21
7. Ch.20:1-21
8. Ch.20:22-43
9. Ch.21:1-29
10. Ch.22:1-28
11. Ch.22:29-53

2 Kings

12. Ch.1:1-18
13. Ch.2:1-25
14. Ch.3:1-27
15. Ch.4:1-17
16. Ch.4:18-44
17. Ch.5:1-27
18. Ch.6:1-33
19. Ch.7:1-20
20. Ch.8:1-29
21. Ch.9:1-15
22. Ch.9:16-37
23. Ch.10:1-14
24. Ch.10:15-36
25. Ch.11:1-21
26. Ch.12:1-21
27. Ch.13:1-25
28. Ch.14:1-29
29. Ch.15:1-38
30. Ch.16:1-20
31. Ch.17:1-41

June 2007

Psalms

1. Ps.144
2. Ps.145
3. Ps.146
4. Ps.147
5. Ps.148
6. Ps.149 & Ps.150

Matthew

7. Ch.1:1-25
8. Ch.2:1-23
9. Ch.3:1-17
10. Ch.4:1-25
11. Ch.5:1-20
12. Ch.5:21-48
13. Ch.6:1-15
14. Ch.6:16-34
15. Ch.7:1-14
16. Ch.7:15-24
17. Ch.8:1-17
18. Ch.8:18-34
19. Ch.9:1-17
20. Ch.9:18-38
21. Ch.10:1-15
22. Ch.10:16-42
23. Ch.11:1-30
24. Ch.12:1-21
25. Ch.12:22-50
26. Ch.13:1-30
27. Ch.13:31-58
28. Ch.14:1-21
29. Ch.14:22-36
30. Ch. 15:1-39

