

EXCERPTS FROM

October – December 1982

THE LINK

North Road Chapel (Evangelical)

BIDEFORD

Internet Edition

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT - THE MANDATE OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

Today we live in a soft and sentimental age. It was not so long ago that, in this land, treason and murder were punishable by death. Yes! and for the murderer, death was to be by hanging; a symbol of being accursed (Deut.21:23). In this generation we are told that this kind of thing is uncivilised, that it is barbaric and a hang-over from the days of the savage.

The emphasis today is on REFORM and we now have a situation where men betray their country, give away official secrets, violate treaties: they form themselves into terrorist organisations and rebel armies launch bombing attacks creating destruction and carnage, then they telephone the authorities to inform them that they are responsible. Violent crime is rampant throughout the land. "Terrible", we say; it is indeed, but, will it not improve? The answer is, NO! IT WILL NOT, because the laws of the land in our day, to deal with such offences, are at variance with the mandate of the Creator. The Bible speaks of PUNISHMENT for such crimes, NOT REFORM.

"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man. (Gen.9:6). There is a sanctity attached to human life. The blood of man is not as the blood of a beast. Man is not 'advanced animal' - this is the intrusion of the devil invented theory of evolution. Man is a part of creation, but of an entirely different and higher order; made "in the image of God" (Gen.1:27). Hence, the sanctity of human life.

"Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which is guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death." (Num.35:31). Imprisonment does NOT make satisfaction for murder. The Word of God forbids any form of satisfaction to be taken for murder other than death. Bloodshed must be punished by an equality. It is imperative. Man is made in the image of God, and, when human blood is spilt at the hand of the murderer, then that blood cries from the earth for justice and will continue to cry out until justice is done: that is TRUE JUSTICE - BIBLICAL JUSTICE.

"A man that doeth violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him". (Prov.28:17). Death is the inevitable for the murderer; "let no man stay him", states the Scripture. Man dare not ignore such a law as this, for it is the immutable law of the Creator. One commentator has said, "Those that acquit the murderer, or do anything to help him off, come in sharers in the guilt of blood."

Murderers who are allowed to live are a 'POLLUTION' to the land in which they dwell, "...ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are; for blood it defileth the land; and the land CANNOT be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it." (Num.35;33). Is it not a fact that Great Britain is polluted by the presence of very many murderers? There are those in our prisons and on our streets, who, according to the law of God, should have been condemned to death. The blood of hundreds of 'innocents' CRY UNTO GOD FOR JUSTICE. The pollution is such that this nation is a stench unto Almighty God, and, states the Word of God, can "ONLY be cleansed by the blood of him that shed it". The murderer must pay the penalty with his life.

What is the cause of this departure from Divine principle? Why is it that plain statements of Holy Writ have been lost sight of? Why have laws been altered and the attitude of society so changed? The answer to these questions is, that the Church has failed in her charge to proclaim these truths; her thinking has been conditioned and her message adjusted to accommodate evolution. She too is influenced by the humanist who majors on 'reform', whilst love is the dominant note in the preaching of so many self-styled evangelicals.

"...the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness." (Isaiah 5:16). The judgments and requirements of a holy and righteous God are to a very great extent neglected in present day preaching; but these subjects are a very vital part of Truth.

Politicians, magistrates, law enforcement officers, such as the police, are not necessarily aware of these fundamental doctrines of Holy Writ, but it is the duty of the people of God, who know the TRUTH, who hold the yardstick, to preach

it throughout the world, that it may permeate society. It is as salt 'sprinkled' and it will do its own work in the cleansing from corruption, which is its God intended function.

The going forth of God's word will ALWAYS "accomplish the purpose whereto it was sent", cf. Isaiah 55:11. The failure in moral and spiritual matters will always, if traced to its source, be found to have stemmed from a failure within the Church.

In the dispensing of justice there has been a departure from the true Biblical standard, because the people of God do not declare "all the counsel of God". It is only recently, that bodies in Christendom have petitioned the Government not to bring back the death penalty. Many evangelicals follow the same line; consequently, "...judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off; for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter". (Isaiah 59:14).

If the preaching in the pulpits of this country was what it should be, this would have had a significant effect on the vote in parliament on the issue of capital punishment. "...people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"; indeed they have 'rejected knowledge': it is "like people like priest", cf. Hosea 4:6-9).

Jeremiah in his Lamentations pointed out that miseries were inflicted upon Israel because of the sins of her prophets. In that far off day the prophets prophesied "smooth things". This is the root cause of the trouble in our Country today and it has undermined the very structure of our society: as a result, the arm of retribution is stretched out against her.

Nations are not judged, as such, in eternity. In that day all men will stand before God as individuals. Nations rise and fall, sow and reap, in time. They are subject to the moral government of God and to His principles of retribution, now. What is more, if a nation becomes subject to Divine chastisement through sin, and violation of God's law and moral requirements, then the people of God within that nation will be affected also. Christians cannot 'opt out', neither would it be fair or just, the prime cause of

the breakdown being the Church's failure to fulfil its mandate. Therefore, the problems and difficulties which affect the unregenerate will likewise affect the Christian (but not his eternal destiny and security). Whatever God deems to be righteous and just in His governmental dealings with a nation, must of necessity fall upon all within that nation.

In such times of Divine retribution and national adversity, the true people of God should be the first to recognize the situation, "...judgment must begin at the house of God" (1 Peter 4:17). It is here that there must be confession, repentance and return, which will inevitably lead to fearless declaration of THE TRUTH. A failure on the part of the people of God within the nation is to incur the condemnation of being 'PARTAKERS OF THE SIN'.

The Church is not called upon to take up the sword of civil power and wield it; neither is the civil power or State to invade the church. The two are kept distinct in the Word of God. The role of the people of God is to declare the "Law of the Lord" that men may "tremble at his word". Let none shelter behind the theory of the Dispensationalist and say, that this belongs to the Old Testament. God's moral law is for all time. Paul says, "I delight in the law of God" (Rom.7:22) - "knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;" (2 Cor.5:11).

We in our day have a duty as Christians, both to God and to society, to make known God's requirements. As those who have been brought into his kingdom by the regenerating power of his Holy Spirit and made 'His ambassadors' - cf. 2 Cor.5:20 - it is our solemn charge to declare all the truth of that holy law and to point out and denounce all departure therefrom.

"Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law" (Psalm 94:20). Have not many practices forbidden in Holy Scripture been legalized in our day? Thus, mischief is framed by law. "A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them" (Prov.20:26) - "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn" (Prov.29:2) - "Woe unto them that decree unrighteous

decrees, and that write grievousness which they have prescribed:" (Isaiah 10:1).

God's woe is pronounced upon nations which frame laws contrary to his commandments. "Woe unto them ... that justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel". (Isaiah 5:22-24).

Let any people DESPISE the Word of the 'Holy One' and sooner or later - it may not be immediate - the fire of judgment will come upon them. They may boast of their roots and of their standing which they have long held, but saith the Word of God, "their roots shall be as rottenness": such will see their position rot before them. Their "blossom" - all the glory and attractiveness which once surrounded them - "shall go up as dust", says the Almighty, BECAUSE ye have "cast away the law of the Lord".

May it be that in this day and age the true people of God shall cry aloud, in the language of Holy Scripture, "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord" (Jer.22:29), mingling with our declaration of Truth our earnest and fervent prayers "for kings, and for all that are in authority" (1 Tim.2:2). These powers "are ordained of God" (Rom.13:1) - 'Ministers of God' Cf. Rom.13:4). As such they are to be 'honoured' Cf. 1 Pet.2:17. May Christians be seen to be faithful in this, and fulfil their God appointed role in a SCRIPTURAL MANNER, and those in positions of authority be duly influenced under God, to rule in His fear, 'TO BEAR NOT THE SWORD IN VAIN': BUT AS MINISTERS OF GOD, be 'A REVENGER TO EXECUTE WRATH UPON HIM THAT DOETH EVIL' Cf. Rom.13:4.

W.H.Molland.

THE PRIMACY OF PREACHING

When confusion reigned at Corinth Paul wrote to the Church there and said that he was coming to them, not with philosophy, not with miracles, but with preaching! To those who were looking for new philosophies and to those who were looking for supernatural signs, preaching was foolishness. What was foolishness to them was power to God. With that power he, Paul, was coming!

Was this emphasis on preaching consistent? Well, John the Baptist was preeminently a preacher and so was our Lord. Peter was commanded to feed the lambs. At Pentecost and subsequently we find that Peter was not a debater nor a chairman, trying to collate the views of contributors, but a preacher. Paul instructed the Ephesian elders as to their priority, namely, to feed the flock. In his letter to the Ephesians (4:1-16) he explained that the great gift of Christ to his Church was the ministry in order that the believers might be built up and made strong, not blown about with every new idea that comes along.

To attain to the standards required by Scripture for preaching is immensely difficult. Few do attain. And if true preaching is attained how many are there who prove to be receptive hearers? We can never presume that the hearers will be worthy. Elijah was not appreciated and our Lord was thrown out (Luke 4:28-30). We can understand why he stressed the importance of listening well, often saying 'take heed how you hear' and 'he who has ears to hear let him hear'. Paul stressed that saving faith comes by hearing the proclamation of the Gospel (Rom.10:17).

Since this is so we must not be surprised that the enemy of souls hates and attacks the function of preaching with all the diabolical powers at his command. If he can supplant this activity then he has removed the greatest threat to his kingdom that there is. Imagine if the present Pope, so vigorous, popular and articulate, was a mighty preacher of the Gospel! The possibilities defy the imagination! But Satan has taken care of that. Pomp and circumstance, not to say Mariolatry, the Mass, politics and all the rest has

obscured Christ from view. We simply do not think of Gospel preaching when we think of the Pope. And when we go to America the main impression we receive is that Christianity is an entertainment and that the Gospel is really an easy and slick provision for all man's emotional needs. And then in so many churches in America .it is organisation and administration that has the pre-eminence, not preaching. I mention America because of the enormous potential that country possesses; a potential that is crippled by superficiality. In Russia any potential is automatically crushed by the iron grip of a tyrannical anti-God state.

Now what does Satan do about preaching? He does two things First he tries to hinder the preacher and Second he endeavours to distract the hearers.

1. Opposition to the preacher. Any preacher or potential preacher will be the target of Satan's enmity. If he cannot destroy the preacher or ruin his reputation he will sidetrack him to become an administrator, a talker, an entertainer or anything else in sight which falls short of preaching. If that fails then he will use his favourite device which is to discourage the preacher and persuade him that he is ineffective and useless and that his labour is in vain.

To be a preacher one has to be an incessant student and intercessor. Paul believed in the primacy of the intellect (Rom.12:1-2) and in the primacy of labour (1 Tim.5:17, 2 Tim. 2:15). Yet there are so many other aspects to preaching that it takes all one's time and powers to do justice to it. The absence of only one vital element can ruin the whole. The presence of some unfortunate distortion or imbalance can also cripple this vocation. Included among the ingredients are exposition, doctrine, law, gospel, practical application, spiritual experience (spirituality), relevance find power. In this solemn and awesome exercise there must be something for everyone, life for the dead, healing for the diseased, cures for the distempered, sight for the blind, correction for the errorists, comfort for the afflicted, warning for the careless - the list is endless. All this can never be accomplished without diligent and constant labour within the means of grace. Korchnoi the chess player goes to tremendous lengths to attain maximum alertness of mind and body for hie matches for the world

championship against Karpov. Preachers should do all they can to keep themselves in prime condition spiritually, mentally, physically. They cannot afford to be lax in any way.

2. Opposition to the hearers. One of Satan's best methods to destroy preaching is to spread dirty propaganda tricks about preaching being boring, dull, ill-prepared - or to hinder and deceive in such a way that wretched substitutes take over. They are all too well-known: the power of personality and preaching of self; the presentation of sentimental stories; the recital of obvious and trite comments on a passage of Scripture which reveal inadequate preparation or sheer lack of ability for the calling. Another device is to get hearers to regard preaching lightly. Then they do not prepare themselves prior to hearing, do not concentrate properly during the sermon and make no effort to retain what they have heard. Did our Lord not show that this battle is so intense that the demons are ready to pluck away the seed immediately the hearing is over? The demons do not even have the decency to wait until the hearers get home to lunch, so keen are they to wrest away that seed which could germinate by the Spirit into eternal life!

It would seem in the present climate that the Adversary has enjoyed immense success in cutting people off from preaching altogether. This he has succeeded in doing by the use of ideas, the main one being that the Bible is nonsensical with its creation and other make-believe stories. But there are also the popular ideas that churches are dungeons, pulpits are out of date, preachers are bumlbers and pews are incongruous or out of keeping with modern life. Such simple things - yet from them grossly unfair caricatures are portrayed and perpetuated. Satan will use any means whatever to be derogatory about preachers and the pulpits they occupy because this serves his purpose so well. He is so clever with his propaganda that believers themselves eventually succumb and become rebellious. The enemy will take any unpleasant feature in the preacher's personality, style, voice or delivery and blow it up to the point of distraction. And let us freely confess that listening is a very exacting exercise. For unbelievers the prospect of repenting and changing their lifestyle is more terrifying than hell itself. They will rather risk the Bible being wrong about the judgment and eternal hell than change their

ways. That is why our Lord said that it takes divine omnipotent power to draw sinners to hear - they won't come without it (John 6:44). But believers have their own desperate struggles too because discriminating preaching is often like a blow-lamp which searches out and scorches out our secret sins and lusts. That can be intensely painful. It is a marvel that anyone at all listens to true preaching! But there are also attractions. The sweet consolations and enjoyments of the Gospel are of inestimable value. The unsearchable riches of Christ come to us mostly through preaching (Eph.3:8). What can compare with the burning of heart we sometimes experience when the Word is opened to us (Luke 24:32)?

What then can we do to preserve the primacy of preaching?
Let us not in any way fall into the trap of serving the Devil's cause in disparaging preaching. Instead of giving way to talk about being regimented in rows let us remind such critics of the comfort of that compared to our Russian brethren standing for hours in cold buildings or outside in blizzards in the woods. They welcome preaching for as long as the Word comes with edifying, soul enriching power. What is wrong anyway in sitting in rows? What do people do when they listen to politicians, sit in s-bends or circles? Remind people too that hearing true expository preaching is the most participatory activity in which we could ever indulge.

Is there anything more participatory than for us to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, bodies as we have seen him in the sanctuary? An hour as a doorman in God's house is better than 1,000 elsewhere. The nearest to home we will ever be is when heaven invades our souls and as God takes us up to himself through his Word made alive, quick and powerful. Singing and praying are acts of participation in which all our minds and spirits are absorbed, but the supreme act of worship is when God takes over our souls as he speaks to us from his Word. The wisdom we receive and retain from the Word, in preaching is wisdom supreme. Solomon was commended for the request that he made. It is through preaching that we can receive wisdom. - cf. Proverbs 4:7.

The above is taken from the Magazine "Reformation Today", abridged by kind permission.

There is no office so honourable as that of the preacher. There is no work so important to the souls of men. It is an office which the Son of God was not ashamed to take up. It is an office to which he appointed his twelve apostles. It is an office to which St. Paul in his old age specially directs Timothy's attention. He charges him with almost his last breath to 'preach the word'. It is the means which God has always been pleased to use above any other, for the conversion and edification of souls. The brightest days of the Church have been those when preaching has been honoured. The darkest days of the Church have been those when it has been lightly esteemed.

John Charles Ryle

Infidelity in the ministry is like unsavoury salt: ineffectual worthless, despicable, subject to a fearful curse. This is the great danger of the pulpit: to become menpleasers, to yield to the demand for smooth speaking, to tickle the ears of their auditors with novelties. Such preachers become unsavoury salt, unprofitable in their ministry, failing to season souls so that they are acceptable to God. Salt is useless when it loses its virtue and acrimony. Ministers become such when, through lack of prayer and continuous study they fail to increase in spiritual knowledge, or when adopting false doctrine they preach error, or when they cease to denounce sin, or when they fail to practise what they preach ... Just as unsavoury salt is become worthless to season meat, so unfaithful ministers are valueless to God and man: The curse resting upon such is "it is cast out and trodden under foot of man" (Matt.5:13); that is, such preachers are condemned both by the Lord and by their fellow men. "Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all people according as ye have not kept my ways, but have been partial in the law". (Malachi 2:16).

A.W.Pink.

WHEAT OR CHAFF?

The following is an extract from the writings of the late J.C.Ryle, the first Bishop of Liverpool.

"Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Matt.3:12)

There are only two classes of people in the world and both are mentioned in this text. There are those who are called the wheat and there are those who are called the chaff.

Viewed with the eye of man the earth contains many different sorts of inhabitants. Viewed with the eye of God it only contains two. Man's eye looks at the outward appearance: this is all he thinks of. The eye of God looks at the heart: this is the only part of which He takes any account. And tried by the state of their hearts there are but two classes into which people can be divided; either they are wheat or they are chaff.

Who are the wheat in the world? Listen to me and I will tell you.

The wheat means all men and women who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ; all who are led by the Holy Spirit; all who have felt themselves sinners, and fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before them; all who love the Lord Jesus, and live to the Lord Jesus, and serve the Lord Jesus; all who know Christ for their only confidence, and the Bible for their only guide, and regard sin as their deadliest enemy, and look to heaven as their only home. All such, of every church, name, nation, people, and tongue; of every rank, station, condition, and degree; all such are God's wheat.

Show me men of this kind anywhere and I know what they are. I know not that they and I may agree in all particulars but I see in them the handiwork of the King of kings and I ask no more. I know not whence they came and where they found their religion; but I know where they are going and that is

enough for me. They are the children of my Father in heaven. They are part of His wheat.

All such, though sinful and vile and unworthy in their own eyes are the precious part of mankind. They are the sons and daughters of God the Father. They are the delight of God the Son. They are the habitation of God the Spirit.

The Father beholds no iniquity in them. They are members of His dear Son's body; in Him He sees them and is well pleased. The Lord Jesus discerns in them the fruit of His own travail and work upon the cross and is well satisfied. The Holy Ghost regards them as spiritual temples which He Himself has reared and rejoices over them. In a word, they are the wheat of the earth.

Who are the chaff in the world? Listen to me once more and I will tell you this also.

The chaff means all men and women who have no saving faith in Christ and no sanctification of the Spirit, whosoever they may be. Some of them perhaps are infidels and some are formal Christians. Some are sneering Sadducees and some self-righteous Pharisees. Some of them make a point of keeping up a kind of Sunday religion and others are utterly careless of everything except their own pleasure and the world. But all alike, who have the two great marks already mentioned; no faith and no sanctification; all such are chaff. From Paine and Voltaire to the dead churchman who can think of nothing but outward ceremonies; from Julian and Porphyry to the unconverted admirer of sermons in the present day; all, all are standing in one rank before God; all, all are chaff.

They bring no glory to God the Father. They honour not the Son and so do not honour the Father that sent Him. They neglect that mighty salvation which countless millions of angels admire. They disobey that Word which was graciously written for their learning. They listen not to the voice of Him who condescended to leave heaven and die for sinners. They pay no tribute of service and affection to Him who gave them life and breath and all things. And therefore God takes no pleasure in them. He pities them but He reckons them no better than chaff.

Yes; you may have rare intellectual gifts and high mental attainments; you may sway kingdoms by your counsel, move millions by your pen, or keep crowds in breathless attention by your tongue, but if you have never submitted yourself to the yoke of Christ and never honoured His Gospel by heartfelt reception of it, you are nothing in His sight. Natural gifts without grace are like a row of noughts without a one before them; they look big but they are of no value. The meanest insect that crawls is a nobler being than you are. It fills its place in creation and glorifies its Maker with all its power and you do not. You do not honour God with heart, and will, and intellect, and members, which are all His. You invert His order and arrangement and live as if time was of more importance than eternity and body better than soul. You dare to neglect God's greatest gift. His own incarnate Son. You are cold about that subject which fills all heaven with hallelujahs. And so long as this is the case, you belong to the worthless part of mankind. You are the chaff of the earth.

Reader, let this thought be graven deeply in your mind, whatever else you forget. Remember there are only two sorts of people in the world. There are wheat and there are chaff.

There are many nations in Europe. Each differs from the rest. Each has its own language, its own laws, its own peculiar customs. But God's eye divides Europe into two great parties; the wheat and the chaff.

There are many classes in England. There are peers and commoners; farmers and shopkeepers; masters and servants; rich and poor. But God's eye only takes account of two orders, the wheat and the chaff.

There are many and various minds in every congregation that meets for religious worship. There are some who attend for a mere form, and some who really desire to meet Christ, some who come there to please others, and some who come to please God, some who bring their hearts with them and are not soon tired, and some who leave their hearts behind them and reckon the whole service weary work. But the eye of Jesus only sees two divisions in the congregation, the wheat and the chaff.

I know well the world dislikes this way of dividing professing Christians. The world tries hard to fancy there are three sorts of people and not two. To be very good and very strict does not suit the world: they cannot, will not be saints. To have no religion at all does not suit the world: it would not be respectable; "Thank God," they will say, "we are not so bad as that." But to have religion enough to be saved, and yet not go into extremes; to be sufficiently good, and yet not be peculiar; to have a quiet, easy-going, moderate kind of Christianity, and go comfortably to heaven after all, this is the world's favourite idea. There is a third class, a safe middle class, the world fancies; and in this middle class the majority of men persuade themselves they will be found.

I denounce this notion of a middle class as an immense and soul-ruining delusion. I warn you strongly not to be carried away by it. It is as vain an invention as the Pope's purgatory. It is a refuge of lies, a castle in the air, a vast unreality, an empty dream. This middle class is a class of Christians nowhere spoken of in the Bible.

There were two classes in the day of Noah's flood; those who were inside the ark, and those who were without: two in the parable of the Gospel net; those who are called the good fish, and those who are called the bad: two in the parable of the virgins; those who are described as wise, and those who are described as foolish: two in the account of the judgment day; the sheep and the goats: two sides of the throne; the right hand and the left: two abodes when the last sentence has been passed; heaven and hell.

And just so there are only two classes in the visible Church on earth; those who are in the state of nature, and those who are in the state of grace; those who are in the narrow way, and those who are in the broad; those who have faith, and those who have not faith; those who have been converted, and those who have not been converted; those who are with Christ, and those who are against Him; those who gather with Him, and those who scatter abroad; those who are the wheat and those who are chaff. Into these two classes the whole professing Church of Christ may be divided. Beside these two classes there is none.

Reader, dear reader, see now what cause there is for self-inquiry. Are you among the wheat, or among the chaff? Neutrality is impossible. Either you are in one class or in the other. Which is it of the two?

You attend church perhaps. You go to the Lord's table. You like good people. You can distinguish between good preaching and bad. You think Popery false and oppose it warmly. You think Protestantism true and support it cordially. You subscribe to religious societies. You attend religious meetings. You sometimes read religious books. It is well; it is very well. It is good: it is all very good. It is more than can be said of many. But still this is not a straightforward answer to my question. Are you wheat, or are you chaff?

Have you been born again? Are you a new creature? have you put off the old man, and put on the new? Have you ever felt your sins and repented of them? Are you looking simply to Christ for pardon and life eternal. Do you love Christ? Do you serve Christ? Do you loathe heart-sins and fight against them? Do you long for perfect holiness and follow hard after it? Have you come out from the world? Do you delight in the Bible? Do you wrestle in prayer? Do you love Christ's people? Do you try to do good in the world? Are you vile in your own eyes and willing to take the lowest place? Are you a Christian in business, on week days and by your own fireside? Oh, think, think, think on these things and then perhaps you will be better able to tell the state of your soul?

I beseech you not to turn away from my question however unpleasant it may be. Answer it, though it may prick your conscience and out you to the heart. Answer it, though it may prove you in the wrong and expose your fearful danger. Rest not, rest not, till you know how it is between you and God. Better a thousand times find out that you are in an evil case, and repent betimes, than live on in uncertainty, and be lost eternally.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

SUNDAY 24th October 1982

The services will be taken by Mr.S.J.Scott-Pearson,
Minister of Maulden (Bedfordshire) Baptist Church.

THURSDAY 4th November 1982

The ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING - commencing at 6.30 pm. Will
church members please note.

It was with much joy that we received into membership of the church on Sunday 27th June 1982, our brother and sister Mr. and Mrs.J.Goodwin, who had moved into the area some months previously from Cheltenham.

We thank the Great Head of the Church for such an addition - those of "like precious faith" (2 Peter 1:1) - who will strengthen our hands in the work of the house of God - Cf. Ezra 6:22.

On Friday 23rd July 1982 a representative company gathered for the funeral of Mr. Frank Brignall. Most of his life had been spent in the Ministry, and he had been a faithful expositor of the Word of God. For the past 5 years he had been stricken with illness and suffered much, yet, with great grace and fortitude. We thank God for every remembrance of him and rejoice that he is now at home with the Lord. We extend our love and sympathy to Mrs. Brignall and to Miss Brignall, his sister, and assure them of the continuance of our prayers.

Our sister Mrs. Lane passed away in the Torridge Hospital where she had been for many months. She was in her 93rd year. We give thanks that the Lord has released her from her weariness and taken her into His presence, and we extend our sympathy to all the family

EDITORIAL

Recent publications by the Trinitarian Bible Society include a Bible Word List and Reading Scheme. This gives brief explanations of words in the Authorised Version describing unfamiliar objects, animals and plants, weights, measures and money, and words no longer in every day use, or now used with a different meaning. The Daily Reading Scheme is the M'Cheyne Scheme for reading through the whole Bible once in two years - the Psalms and New Testament twice. This is excellent value at 20p.

As in past years we have, during July and August, held the 'Drive-in' church in the car park on the river bank. We are thankful to God for affording us this opportunity of public testimony and grateful for the support given us by the Authorities. The last service was held on the 5th September and on each occasion the weather has been favourable.

The emphasis in these services, as in all the activity at North Road Chapel, is upon preaching and it is our firm conviction that there is no substitute for systematic expository preaching. This in our view is the great need of the hour as it is primarily by this means that all the truth of Holy Scripture - doctrinal, practical and devotional - is made known

Editor (L.W.Gee).