



A Devotional given by Malcolm H. Watts

At the beginning of Committee Meetings, Malcolm Watts gives a devotional message. It is always helpful, pertinent and causes us to look to the Lord. We share this one with you.

Reading: Zechariah 4:1-14.

Zechariah's prophetic word was to encourage the Jews in the rebuilding of the temple and of Jerusalem itself.

Focusing on v.10 "For who hath despised the day of small things?"

This verse is relevant for Pastors and for all of us in these days, when few respond to the Gospel and Gospel works are small.

1. There is a tendency in human hearts to have contempt for small beginnings or a small situation. It was the same in Zechariah's day. **2.** This contempt stems from a lack of faith in God's wisdom and power. He can bless small beginnings or situations and he can make something wonderful of them. **3.** Anything can happen, for God can do wondrous things. He can take something small (like the loaves and the fishes), bless it and multiply it. **4.** Whatever we have is a gift of grace: it is undeserved, and we should not despise it. If one sinner is converted, we should rejoice as that is a work of grace. **5.** The promises of God offer a brighter future: "Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." (Ps. 2:9). Things will not always be small; God can do marvellous things so the small becomes large. **6.** The 'day of small things' exercises patience. It causes us to seek Him, to look to Heaven for the answer to our prayers. It could be a preparation for something more wonderful. **7.** We can be encouraged by examples in Scripture. Noah was despised, but from his small family the whole earth was populated. God said of Abraham, "I called him alone." (Is. 51:2): he was one man, but he became the father of a nation and of all faithful believers. We should nurture and pray for the 'bruised reed' for the Lord will not break it. Jesus said, "Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32). God Himself does not despise small things, for there were only twelve apostles. **8.** If we despise the small things, our pessimism can grieve the Spirit. We should trust and look to the Lord. A small seed planted can prosper and grow and become a great tree.

We would love to see more, but we are living in a day of small things, and we should not despise it. If God is in the work, then the small can become great.

Pastors' Support Fund

In addition to providing general help and support, the CSF recognizes the need to assist Pastors in smaller churches financially. Many men need to do 'tent-making' (ie. take other, part-time employment) because their churches cannot support them fully. CSF is setting up a **Pastors' Support Fund** to provide some financial assistance to these men: it may not take away the need for 'tent-making' but it will, we hope, relieve the financial burden a little.



Church Meeting

There will be a CSF Meeting at the church in Lower Gornal on April 18th 2023 at 7.30pm. Richard Clarke (Plymouth) will be speaking. It would be good to support this church by attending the meeting. You would be most welcome.

www.gornalbaptistchurch.org.uk

"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain." (Revelation 3:2)