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THE GOSPEL FREE AND EFFECTUAL.

A SERMON

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"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed"—Acts xiii 48.

THE connection is supposed to be known; and it may serve a good purpose to translate here the comment of John Calvin, the theologian of the Reformation, who skilfully indicates both the doctrine and the use of the text.

And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. It was matter of gladness to the Gentiles, when they heard, that they were not suddenly called to the hope of salvation, as if this had not been previously decreed by God; but that now at length was fulfilled what had been predicted many ages before. And indeed it was no common confirmation of faith, that salvation by the advent of Christ had been promised to them; whence also ground was given, that they might with the greater desire and reverence embrace the gospel. *To glorify the word of God* may be expounded in two ways: either that they acknowledged the prophecy of Isaiah to be true, or that by faith they embraced the doctrine proposed to them. Certainly a full subscription is denoted, because no further do they dispute or doubt, the victory of Paul being conspicuous. And certainly, then do we closely follow the word of God with due honor, when we obediently subject ourselves to it by faith: just as it cannot be