



Volume XXVIII. No. 6 MELBOURNE, 1st JUNE, 1945 Price—Threepence

Christian Constancy.

(Convention Address.)

MR. CHURCHILL promised the British race "blood and tears," and what followed was such that it was necessary to adopt all sorts of expedients to try and maintain the people's morale. We are not under any illusions, as New Creatures, regarding the future. We know full well what the Master said, that the servant is not above his Lord, and whilst He was persecuted, they would be persecuted. We know that through much tribulation will we enter the Kingdom.

I was one of those who used to count the days until October, 1914. It is thirty years since then. As we begin I to wonder how long things will last, there is some excuse for a topic like "Christian Constancy," or endurance, or steadfastness. At any rate, we long ago came to the conclusion that it was not until such-and-such a date we were consecrated, it was until death.

The inspiration for this topic, I might say, came from various things; one was a splendid series of articles by a Brother in England, "As always, so now." But another inspiration was the expression, "Old Faithful." I endeavoured to some extent to find out what that meant. I have heard that it was an old faithful steed, a farm horse, or- something of the kind, and as a reward for his faithfulness he was turned out to pastures green in his old age. I had the idea it must have been some faithful old servant. If we take it in the final analysis it is a symbol of faithfulness or constancy.

Now constancy can be interpreted as steadfastness or firmness of mind, or loyalty. It is not always in the limelight that this constancy or steadfastness is demonstrated. It may be at some lonely outpost, or in some place unseen. But still it is required, for the simple reason that we know full well the determining factor will be character.

Now let us read a passage of scripture, Heb. 3:6, 7, according to Moffat. "Christ is faithful as a Son over God's house. Now we are this house of God, if we will only hold on confident and proud of our hope." "Hold on"—constancy or steadfastness. "Confident, proud of our hope." The association between that text and the word "character" is this, that if we are going to become part of that house of God, the New Jerusalem, we will have to demonstrate that character and the strength of that character. This is more pronounced, too, when we come to think of the fact that 144,000 is the specified number that will constitute the elect. Spread over 2000 years, it is not many, even allowing for the fact that there will be more at the beginning and end of the period. The fact remains it is going to be a severe test, we are to be tried to the utmost in order to qualify for the glorious work that belongs to the future.

Now the necessity for such testing is the fact that to become a part of this New Jerusalem, this House of God, we will be as under-priests, and will have a gigantic task to deal with the -fallen human race. You know the "old man" you have to deal with. Now just think of it, and then think of all the various dispositions and habits and preferences and perversities and weaknesses, and the ignorance and superstition in the world. Now what an enormous amount of work, lies in the future! Consequently those who are going, to be instrumental in blessing all these members of the fallen ,race, the groaning creation, have to be tried to the utmost.

The architect for the Federal Capital said that the data he was supplied with for the construction of the city was perfect in every detail, but was lacking in two most important things, and one was the beauty of the gum trees every one was a poem --4 and 'the rarity of the altitude. He went into raptures over it. I quote that to prove this point. Familiarity breeds contempt. The compilers of that data did not bother mentioning those facts because they were so familiar to them. We are so familiar with these weaknesses of the human race that they do not seem to carry the weight they should, and we are so familiar with the Truth, with the Scriptures, that they become more or less commonplace with us. That is why I

am quoting Moffat, as it will perhaps cause us to think.

We see a great deal of misery and suffering around us, and want of respect for law. Even the children want to please themselves. It even affects us, and that is why it is necessary for us to be on the alert to demonstrate our loyalty, our steadfastness, firmness of mind: Now how is this loyalty to be demonstrated or manifested? There is an expression well known to many of us, "I will be faithful to the Lord, to the Truth, to the brethren, and to all with whom I have to do, not only in the great things of life, but in the small things." You know that in electrical installation, if a thing is not insulated properly there is likely to be a leakage, and so unless we are in contact with the Lord there will be a leakage, Consequently we will have to see there is nothing to withdraw the spirit. So our loyalty, our steadfastness, will be demonstrated towards the Lord. We will take notice of His words, they will abide in us, and we will keep His commandments. Not the ten commandments given to the Jews, but something higher than that, as you know. It will be to "Love the Lord, with all our heart, and. mind, and soul and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves," but it will go further than that, to love one another "as I have loved you."

Then regarding the truth, we will be faithful to the truth. When we speak about being faithful to the Truth, we read in 2 Cor. 11, words to this effect: "I wish you would put up with a little 'folly' from me. Do put up with me, for I feel a divine jealousy on your behalf; I betrothed you as a chaste maiden to present you to your one husband,. Christ, but I am afraid of your thoughts getting seduced from single devotion to Christ, just as the serpent beguiled Eve with his, cunning." Now, when we endeavour to serve the Truth, we are tempted to adopt expedients, and sometimes the Adversary might trip us up. Curiosity was the trouble with' Eve, and curiosity would sometimes entrap some of us. Nevertheless we might be well-meaning, and try to investigate strange ideas and doctrines. It is a dubious, undertaking. I have found from my own experience that you are wasting your time, pulling to pieces a straw man. so it is not worth while. We should be true to the Lord. "I am determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." Just put the Truth in the forefront, and be loyal to that; you will then be oblivious to many other things, otherwise you will be only chasing illusions. ,

We are to be faithful to the brethren, and in this we will be doing as the Apostle advises us, as, we read in Philippians, "Well, then, my brothers, for whom I cherish love and longing, my joy and crown, this is how you are to stand firm in the Lord, O my beloved." It is done by forgetting the things which are behind and pressing toward the mark. But I want to stress the' next verse. "I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. And you, my true comrade, lend a hand to these women, I beg of you; they have fought at my side in the active service of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow-workers whose names are in the book of life." That allows for diversity. We often want to have people similar to ourselves, and try to force them to our way of thinking. On fundamentals, we should think alike. But these two sisters apparently had differences of thought, and that was why the exhortation was necessary, to be true or faithful and to agree in the Lord. _ If we agree in the Lord it will allow a diversity, differences of opinion on non-essentials.

Then there is another passage that we cannot neglect; it is found in 2 Pet. 3:17,18, and reads: "Now, beloved, you are forewarned: see that you are not carried away by the error of the lawless and so lose your proper footing; but go on growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." We have to watch against lawlessness creeping into our company. I mentioned that anarchy was prevalent everywhere. We have to be on guard against lawlessness, want of respect for law.

Then we have mentioned being faithful to all with whom we have to do. That is, people outside, in the world. Love is summed up in little things. You have to do something. "If ye do these things," that is the stipulation laid down. Then we have to develop that loyalty and firmness of mind which will demonstrate our worthiness to obtain ' that glorious reward, to be joint-heirs with the Master in helping the poor groaning creation out of their undone condition.

We have mentioned the conditions that prevail in the world, the wickedness waxing worse and worse, and errors everywhere, and consequently it is important for us to have some way in which we can maintain that confidence and steadfastness. Of course, there are various ways. Gratitude is responsible for people being faithful. Gratitude causes us to respond, when we think how much has been given us. We think of the Scriptures—"The Lord will not forget thee," we have that assurance, and also—"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." We have proved that over and over again. Then there is the gratitude that must go forth from us towards the Master—He who, having loved His own, loved them to the end. He would not leave them comfortless, but would send them the holy spirit. There must be gratitude welling up in our hearts and causing us to strive to the utmost to do His will. We look around us and think what the soldiers in the war are going through. We read of their suffering, and the changes through which they are passing. They are not doing it for anything like the reward we are promised. They certainly think they are fighting for a New Order. Some of them have a doubt about it, but some enthusiastic ones are fighting on, thinking they will get a New Order, but I think we have a better guarantee of a New Order than anyone else. So that causes us to be confident and firm in our endeavour to press on in the race.

Then when we think of the example of the Master, it is a great stimulus to us. There was also the Apostle Paul. The Master was perfect, but Paul was a man of like passions to ourselves, yet he won through. There are several passages of Scripture which I will read, and I think you will agree with me that these Scriptures give us a fair indication of what a wonderful example the Apostle left. us.

2 Cor. 11:23-28—''Ministers of Christ? Yes, perhaps, but not as much as I am, with all my labours, with all my lashes, with all my time in prison—a record longer far than theirs. I have been often at the point of death; five times have I had forty lashes (all but one) from the Jews, three times I have been beaten- by the Romans, once pelted with stones, three times shipwrecked, adrift at sea for a whole night and day; I have been often on my travels, I have been in danger from rivers and robbers, in danger from Jews and Gentiles, through dangers of town and of desert, through dangers on the sea, through dangers among false brothers through labour and hardship, through many a sleepless night, through hunger and thirst, starving many a time, cold and ill-clad, and all the rest of it.'' The Apostle was compelled to blow his own trumpet, as some would say, because of the way he was attacked. But it was well for us, or we would not have had such a record.

Phil. 1:19-27—I picture the Apostle before Nero, expecting to lose his life. ''The outcome of all this, I know, will be my release, as you continue to pray for me, and as I am provided with the spirit of Jesus Christ—my eager desire and hope being that I may never feel ashamed, but that now as ever, I may do honour to Christ in my own person by fearless courage. Whether that means life or death, no matter. As life means Christ to me, so death means gain. But then, if it is to be life here below, that means fruitful work for me. So—well, I cannot tell which to choose; I am in a dilemma between the two. My strong desire is to depart and be with Christ (Better translation—I have a desire for the returning, and being with Christ), for that is far the best. But for your sakes, it is needful that I should live on here below; I am sure it is, and so I know I shall remain alive to serve you all by forwarding your progress and fostering the joy of your faith. Thus you will have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus over me—over my return to you.'' The Apostle was weary and tired, he wished the end was there. Seemingly the conditions were such that he felt it was his duty, his loyalty to the Lord, that he should remain, so he did remain, but he was looking forward to the time of the Lord's return when the righteous Judge would give him a crown, and also all those who loved His appearing.

Another means of maintaining that constancy and loyalty is by assembling together. You know we need that exhortation as the Apostle said, ''so much the more as ye see the day approaching.'' Therefore it is a great privilege to take 'advantage of the company of the brethren. Another way is by taking advantage of the assistance that we will receive from our Elder Brother. We have this record which is very timely, Heb. 4:14-16—''As we have a great high priest, then, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession; for ours is no high priest who cannot have sympathy with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every respect like ourselves, yet without sinning. So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us 'in the hour of need.'' Let us note there the reference to constancy—''hold fast.''

If we can be stimulated to exercise that constancy and firmness of mind to the end, we will merit the ''Well done, good and faithful servant.'' Have we ever tried to conjecture what that glorious condition will be when we are ushered into the presence of the King? There is a great deal of excitement with many people to get to Canberra for the advent of the Duke. But I can tell you there are many people who are glad when they can put off their fine clothes, and to whom it is an ordeal to have to appear in the presence of such people. I have seen the Prime Minister reading a book on etiquette. The point I want to make is, they do it so they can gracefully deport themselves in the presence of these high personages: Now we are going to be ushered into the presence of the King of kings and Lord of lords. How do you think we shall shape? Will we be at ease, will we be happy, will we have the right spirit? Or be like fish out of waxer? I will leave that thought with you. ''Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.''—I Cor. 15:58.

BEREAN BIBLE INSTITUTE Ermington Place, Kew, E 4, Melbourne, Vic., Aust. PEOPLES PAPER. AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM.

Published by the Berean Bible Institute,

Berean Bible Institute

WITH the close of April another yearly term for the Berean Bible Institute has been completed, and in presenting this report and balance sheet it is with sincere gratitude and thankfulness to the Lord for all His favors and overruling providence manifest upon the efforts to serve His cause of truth in these last days of the harvest time in this corner of the harvest field.

With the Lord's blessing and the loving assistance of so many of our brethren the work of the Institute generally has been maintained and in some features has been extended over the past year. Reference to the Radio work is contained in a separate report in this issue, so is omitted here.

Our monthly periodical, "People's Paper and Herald of Christ's Kingdom," now in its 28th year of publication, carries its message regularly each month 'to our brethren and readers generally. The words of appreciation of the contents of the "Paper" expressed by the brethren, and also by a number of new friends, shows that it is a means of good help and encouragement to many in their Christian way; it is encouraging to know that this is so, by the Lord's grace. Again at this time our thanks are extended, to various friends for their contributions to the columns of the "People's Paper." A further increase in the number of subscribers is in evidence, and some of our readers also assist by sending subscriptions for their friends, and in this way other literature is also introduced to those who desire the spiritual things.

On the financial side the "People's Paper" still requires to be supported by the General Tract Fund, but this is compensated to a good extent by the considerable number of the periodical being used in the general witness work. Three months' free copies are forwarded to all enquirers for literature, 'or other names sent in, and where some interest is shown the "Paper" is continued free for longer periods. Lists of names and addresses may also be sent in for samples of "Peoples Paper" and extra copies are available to our friends for distribution personally.

Considerable quantities of books and booklets have been" supplied over the past year throughout Australasia and to Britain, U.S.A., and Canada, and while extra time is still required in transit only minor losses have been suffered as the.-result of the war.

Transferred from ' Reserve Fund

2000

The work of witnessing with tracts, cards and newspaper coupons has been carried out in various parts, and while the printing of tracts is necessarily curtailed, this has been offset to some good extent by the use of the Radio Dialogues in printed form. Supplies of tracts and the

Dialogues are available for all who can use them to good advantage. The work with the Consolation Cards has been continued to good advantage amongst the bereaved. Considerable numbers of cards have been sent out by various Classes, and many people have received much comfort and help from the literature on the hope beyond the grave. These cards are supplied to all who desire to engage in this work of comforting those in the sorrows of bereavement.

Most of our readers are aware that the work of the, Institute is carried on by voluntary financial assistance from our friends generally, and the General Tract Fund has received amounts, by the Lord's overruling providence, which have been sufficient over the past year to cover all expenses and leaving a credit balance of L14/18/4 towards the work of the year ahead. Much sacrifice is no doubt involved in this loving provision from all who desire to assist the cause of truth, as unto the Lord.

-As we enter upon another year, the prayers of the brethren are requested upon the work; our one desire is to serve faithfully the cause of Christ, together with all who love the Lord in sincerity. That the Lord has thus far granted the privilege of service, when in some lands this would be impossible, is cause for thankfulness; this service is that of "doing good to all men as we have opportunity, but especially to the household of faith." May all the dear friends grasp the privileges still at hand, building up themselves and others of like precious faith in spiritual things, and letting their light shine for the blessing and encouragement of those .who may yet be feeling after God, if haply they may find Him. "Unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

THE RADIO WORK.

THIS feature of the work undertaken by the Berean Bible Institute in recent years, with the generous support of the brethren generally in this land, and the hearty co-operation of our brethren in U.S.A., has been blessed of the Lord very truly again over the past twelve months. Our thanks ascend to God for enabling this witness to be carried on so that the truths of His Word may go out over the air from week to week and reach those who are hungering and thirsting for the glad message which His truth alone supplies.

While a half-yearly report and balance sheet was presented in last December's issue of "People's Paper," these remarks and the balance sheet appearing below cover the full twelve months period just past—up to 1st May, 1945.

Our friends will be pleased to hear that the responses to the broadcasting, while not as numerous as in the first year of the sessions, are still good and most encouraging. It does us all good to hear of the numbers of listening friends who say they never miss the sessions, that they look forward to Sunday mornings, and feel refreshed and strengthened after hearing the message over the air. Our faith is such that we know the Lord will bless all sincere hearts and lead them on to know Him more fully as they respond in appreciation of what they have heard.

The offering of the complete Dialogues in print to all listeners after the broadcasts has been most successful; this enables and encourages listeners to prove all things from the Bible for themselves, and is the first step towards individual study of God's Word. Quite a number of our radio friends have become established in the truths of God's Word and it is a joy to note their progress as they appreciate more and more of the spiritual things. The various booklets and books have assisted and the "People's Paper" is received regularly by numbers of these friends, and above all the Lord's blessing is in evidence upon those sincere of heart.

Commencing with Sunday, 1st July, some changes in the radio stations will be made. In N.S. Wales a new station is engaged, namely, 2HD Newcastle, and the new time for this station will be 1.15 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. It is felt that this time should be very suitable for most people, and it is expected that 2HD will be heard in Sydney, especially in the winter months. The last session on 2CA Canberra for the present will take place on Sunday, 24th June, at 10 a.m. In Victoria, 3SH Swan Hill will commence again, on Sunday, 1st July, at 10 a.m., and it is expected it will reach many of the listeners to 3B0 who cannot hear 3GL. Sunday, 24th June, will be the last session for 3B0 Bendigo for the present. It would be appreciated if friends receiving the "People's Paper" would inform their friends of these changes in stations, notice of which is also given in another part of this issue. As announced in May "People's Paper," a change has also been made in Perth to GKY at 7.15 p.m. on Sunday nights.

That the messages over the air are also refreshing to the brethren themselves is clearly manifest, and a considerable number of subscribers to the "People's Paper" receive the copies of the Dialogues enclosed with their papers each month; in this way, those who live outside the range of any of the radio stations may still read the Dialogues and use them for passing on to those who may be helped.

An important part in making the broadcasts a success is the necessity for advertising, by distribution of the radio cards, and using suitable papers where opportunity exists. Our friends generally are invited to enter into this work of making the broadcasts known, and encouraging people to listen to the sessions. Advertising cards are supplied free on application.

From the balance sheet below the generous support to this work on the part of our friends generally, in the Lord's providence, will be seen, and all the sacrifices made in the interests of the Lord's cause will be rewarded as only He can do. After covering the expenses over the year to May 1st, it will be seen that a credit is in hand in the Radio Fund

to the amount of L 121/17/- with which to commence another year. As with the work generally, so with this witnessing to the truth, the prayers of our brethren are requested that the Lord's guidance and blessing may be upon the efforts in the interests of His people.

DISSENSION TAKES GILT OFF EUROPEAN VICTORY.

Under the above heading the London representative of the Melbourne "Herald" gives the following picture of conditions in Europe to-day. He states:

"What a spectacle of turmoil this European continent presents even after V-E Day cheers have died down.

"General de Gaulle, with a France weighted down with internal troubles, seeks to control areas in Germany and Austria far beyond the capabilities of his sick country.

"His troops are quietly annexing parts of Italy. His procrastination over the treaty of independence with Syria. and Lebanon threatens serious complications with Britain..

"King Leopold's future in Belgium has produced already a bitter political issue.

"And there's the Trieste crises bringing Britain and Jugoslavia against each other..

"And' Poland is the master dissension between west and east, the Russians are not standing still on this deadlock. Even inside Germany adjustments are being made which the peace settlement could alter only by force.

"The Russians have directed the Lublin Poles to establish their administration as far west as the Oder, but no United Nations' published decision has ever announced this degree of dismemberment for Germany.

"Bulgaria and Rumania become completely Russian spheres, where no freedom of movement is accorded British and American military missions.

"In Czechoslovakia, Czechoslovak Spitfire squadrons, which left Britain for Prague, could not assist their own people. They were ordered to land in Germany, because the liberation of the Czechs had to be left to the Russians.

Transferred from ' Reserve Fund

2000

"The Russians in Austria have established Austrian provisional Government unrecognised by the British, Americans and French.

"This is a brief catalogue of Europe today. It is summed up by House of Commons member and commentator Vernon Bartlett thus:

"The hard, harsh fact which must be faced is that there is now more distrust between the British, Russians and Americans than at any other time since Hitler and the Japanese brought them together.' "

While we are very thankful that the terrible war in Europe is stilled, yet how truly the above account fulfils the words of Isa. 57:20, 21.—"The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." What extreme lessons are yet necessary before mankind are thoroughly humbled and prepared for the time when the Lord's will is done on earth, as in heaven:

A new edition of the booklet "Good News" is now ready, and is most appropriate and timely for the present, showing how the Lord will make wars to cease unto the ends of the earth. Friends desiring a helpful message for today to pass out should procure these. The price is 4d. per copy, or 3/- per doz., post paid.

PILGRIM WAY ENDED.

A member of long standing with the brethren in Melbourne, in the person of elderly Brother Paine, finished the pilgrim way early on the morning of May 23rd. Our dear Brother was well loved and respected by all the Lord's people who met him, and especially by all the members of his home Class in Melbourne.

Of most kindly disposition our Brother Paine finished the earthly journey in harmony with his whole Christian life—without murmur or complaint, fully submissive to the Lord's will. We rejoice that all the weariness and trials of the way are finished, and that our dear Brother in Christ has entered into his „reward.

Our sympathy goes out to Sister Paine in the loss of a devoted Christian husband. As Christians we surely "sorrow not as those without hope" but look forward to the glad union with Christ and reunion with all the dear members on the other side, in the Kingdom of God's dear Son, from which will flow the blessings to restore and heal all-the families of the earth. "Precious in- the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

Consecration to the Lord.

IN times past we did not clearly distinguish the Lord's people from the world. Whenever we met a man with kind, gentle manners, whether an infidel, a Brahmin, a Mohammedan, a Presbyterian, a Methodist, or merely one of the world, we said to ourselves, "Here is a man who has the spirit of the Lord." Then, we did not know what we were talking about; now, we can recognise the difference. We are certainly glad to acknowledge good traits of character in heathen as well as in Christians, but we are not to accept gentleness and kindness of manner as evidence that their possessor has the holy spirit.

We have all seen people who have very proper sentiments of justice on some subjects, who are yet manifestly not God's people, begotten of the holy spirit. Such persons are usually fine characters. Nevertheless, their conscientiousness causes them to admit that they are sinners and have need of divine forgiveness. We are glad that there are such people, and we should encourage rather than discourage them.

The explanation of this condition of affairs is that these fine characters are not so fallen as some others. God made man in His own image and likeness. With the fall of man came the impairment of, that godlike disposition, but the image of God is not altogether lost. For our part, we wish to show that our Redeemer is the only channel for that forgiveness, the need of which they recognise, and that the only condition of their full acceptance with God is the entire consecration of all that they possess to the service of the Lord.

On one occasion our Lord said, "No man can come unto me, except the Father which sent me draw him." 1 John 6:44.) No one will receive the holy spirit without having been drawn to Christ, but some may be drawn without receiving the holy spirit. Possibly in these persons that endowment which God gave to Adam and pronounced "very good" has been less impaired by the fall than it has been in others. Such naturally desire to have God's approval and the blessings which He is willing to give to those who seek Him.

Having this disposition, such persons are said to be drawn to God. -But the Father points them to the Son, through the knowledge of simple truths. For instance, they may be influenced through hearing a hymn sung; such as

137

"There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains."

These words contain the truth of God to any one who is in a right condition of heart, and are a very valuable hint as to the way to approach God. If those who are seeking to know God desire to inquire further on the subject, they will probably be led to consult with some of the children of God.

Upon the inquiry of those under the conviction of sin as to what must be done to be saved, we tell them, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. (Acts 16:31.) Make a full consecration of your life unto God, and thus you may become a son of God. If any one is obedient to the drawing, the next step for him to take is to say, "I give myself to the Lord and trust Him fully, for I realise. how unworthy I am."

The course which we are describing is that which one must follow in order to be acceptable to God. But first of all, he must desire to approach the Lord. If we should find any one who is, totally depraved, there would be no -use to attempt to draw such a one toward righteousness, truth and God. Even those who have the right attitude of mind may not be equally impressed at all times. It may be that some circumstances awaken them to the need of consecration- before they will take the step which will enable them to become sons of God.—Rom. 12:1.

The High Calling -not for All.

No man, however, takes this step of consecration unless he is called of God. There must be the call, or invitation as there was with Aaron and with our Lord Jesus Christ. (Heb. 5:4, 5.) This call comes through the proclamation of the Gospel. Each must hear for himself before he can accept. "And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:14.) So then, it is for God to begin the work with the unjustified by drawing them to Christ for justification; and it is for our Lord Jesus to continue this work with the consecrated. Furthermore, it is the privilege of all who come into God's family to proclaim these truths to others, to set forth the terms by which those who receive the call may accept it, while "it is called to-day," before this age of sacrifice ends.—Heb. 4:7; 2 Cor. 6:2.

None come to God in this Gospel age except those who make a sacrifice. Others may turn ‘ toward, God; they may look toward God; they may be converted from a wicked life to a better one. But none except the class who are adopted into God’s family are begotten of the holy spirit. The invitation of this age is not an invitation to do the best we can; we are all called in the one hope of our calling (Eph. 4:4.) “Gather my saints together unto me, saith the Lord, those who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”—Psa. 50:5.

It is good not to do wrong. But more than a righteous life is required of those who would be sons of God. Consecration has always been proper; it is the normal attitude for all of God’s intelligent creatures. The Creator is the one to whom all are properly under obligations for every blessing which they enjoy; and heart, mind, tongue and hand should be ready for consecration to do the Father’s will. Whether angels or men or new creatures in Christ—all should be in this attitude.

Since consecration is the only reasonable attitude, then, when the 144,000 of the elect church shall have passed their testing it will still be appropriate for God to permit people to consecrate, and to be pleased with their consecration. Therefore, we may expect that, in the end of the reign of Christ, all the worthy ones shall have made consecration to God. It was thus in the Jewish age, although there was no “high calling” then, nor privilege to understand the deep things of God.-

The privilege of becoming joint-heirs with Christ will end as soon as the elect number is completed. During the thousand years of Christ’s reigns those who consecrate will come to- understand all human things; but not being begotten of the holy spirit; they cannot understand the things of the spirit.

Knowledge of Deep Things a Gradual Development. ‘

We believe that there are still some now living who are consecrated to God and whose consecration has been accepted, but who are not in the light of present truth. This number may include some who are what the Scriptures term “babes” in Christ, and others to whom the Scriptures refer as the “great multitude.” (Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2; Rev. 7:9.) The “foolish virgin” class are probably in large number all around us. The fact that there are some of these in Babylon seems to be indicated by the command, “Come out of her, my people.” (Rev. 18:4.) If they are in Babylon, their presence there shows that they are not yet well developed and if they are God’s people, they are not enjoying the full strength of the present truth, although spirit-begotten.

This fact does not signify that they may not receive present truth. On the contrary, we think it quite likely that some may be helped out of Babylon and into a better understanding of the divine plan; for some of the babes may be strengthened, built up, to a full appreciation of the things of the spirit. We are to have in mind the fact that God has so arranged that “the deep things of God” cannot be known instantaneously; this knowledge comes gradually as an evidence of faithfulness to God.

Those who have not yet learned fully to reverence God and who have not yet made progress in the development of the graces and fruits of the spirit cannot expect to understand the deep things of God. It is our duty and privilege, not only to assist these brethren, but to build one another up and to strengthen one another. Let us see that we do these things.

Bible Study Meetings.

Assemblies for undenominational Bible Study are to be found in the various States, and all earnest truth seekers will be very welcome. -

Please note the times and meeting places in current issues of “People’s Papers” as changes are sometimes necessary..

Melbourne.—Masonic Hall, 254 Swan Street, Richmond (near Church Street)—Sundays, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesdays, 19 Ermington Place, Kew, E.4.-7.45 p.m.

Adelaide.—Druids Hall, Flinders Street—Sunday, 3 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Perth.—Druid’s Chambers, 459 Hay Street—Sunday, 3.30 p.m. and 6.15 p.m.

Sydney.-75 Liverpool Street (few doors from George Street)—Sunday, 3 p.m. and 5.15 p.m.

Correspondence.

Victoria.

Frank and Ernest, Berean Bible Institute, Dear Christian Friends—I was very pleased to receive the little packet of literature for which I wrote some time ago. The reading matter has been a great help to me and in answer to your letter, which I received today, I am forwarding a postal note for 5/6.

Would you please send me a copy of “Tabernacle Shadows” and “The Greatest of These is Love.” The remaining 3/- is the subscription to “Peoples Paper.”

Thanking you for your help; I am, Your Christian Friend,

Frank and Ernest, Dear Sirs—Thank you for the booklets; they are wonderful, as God’s Word and promises are.

You are helping God Almighty to reveal His purposes to His people, “For in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.” Would it be too much to ask that you send me another copy of “To the Law and to the Testimony” as I have friends whom I would like to read that, also the new booklet “Chosen People,” “Christ’s Return,” and your leaflet “The Four Beasts”? ,,

I am enclosing a postal note for expenses. Yours faithfully.

Frank and Ernest, Dear Friends in Christ—I am keenly interested in your ,Questions and Answers concerning the Word of God. Listening last Sunday has inspired me to write for a copy of your last Talks. I am sure many are enlightened and blessed by your work in extension of God’s Kingdom. May the Lord bless you and keep you for future service; Yours in the joy of His love and fellowship’

To Frank and Ernest, Dear Sirs—Please send one copy of last Sunday’s script which was given over the wireless from 3GL station, 10 a.m. Tuning in to that session gives me much pleasure and I am interested and want to study the Bible. Advise me if I may have a loan of other copies in Geelong. Trusting you will oblige; Best wishes.

Frank and Ernest, Dear Sirs—I have been a constant listener to your broadcast “talks on the Bible and enjoy them very much.

I am contemplating to be a Salvation Army Officer and would be obliged if you would send me your Talks in leaflet form. Thanking you in anticipation. A regular listener.

South Australia.

Frank and Ernest, Dear Friends—Just a note to say that the’ “Peoples Paper” and copies of your Sunday morning Dialogues are arriving regularly, and that I find it very interesting, enlightening and helpful reading. I am enclosing a postal note for £ 1. I do not remember when my subscription to the “Peoples Paper” is due again, but if not now, then it “must be soon.

I have a copy of the book “Foregleams of the Golden Age.” but would like another for a friend who lives a considerable distance from here. The balance of the money that you will accept as a contribution to General Funds. Wishing you every success for the Good Work: I am, your Friend.

Frank and Ernest, E.4, Victoria—I have listened a couple of times to the discussion at 9.30 a.m. Sunday mornings and appreciate the Talks very much and would be very glad to receive the pamphlets offered, or any others of previous

Talks available.

I do pray that God will bless that session over the air, and make its influence to extend His Kingdom mightily. Thanking you; Yours because His.

Dear Sirs—I have been a very interested listener to your Frank and Ernest Talks every Sunday morning for a long while now, and en joy them very much. There are many would have liked but I have neglected to write, so I have written right away for this morning’s Talk. Thanking you in anticipation. I am, Yours faithfully.

P.S.—Are -there any stamps to be forwarded?

(The copies of all broadcasts are supplied free, also other literature mentioned over the air. This work is supported by voluntary contributions.—B.B. Institute.)

To Frank and Ernest, E.4, Victoria, Dear Sirs—With pleasure and profit I have. “listened in” on Sunday mornings and as I do some preaching I would like the teaching of the main doctrines of the Bible, so that I may be able to give them as further audience.

Trusting you can oblige with this literature, and thanking you, for the broadcasts. Am enclosing stamps 1/3. I am, Yours faithfully.

N. S. Wales.

Dear Frank and Ernest—Greetings in our dear Redeemer’s name. I rejoice that you have been able to continue putting the good news over the air every Sunday ; trust you will be fully guided by the Lord in this work. Perhaps you would like to know that it reaches this district very clearly from 2CA. I can enter into all that you say and enjoy it very much. Will you please accept the enclosed cheque as a subscription toward the Radio Fund.

You were kind enough to say that you might procure for me the loan of Bro. Streeter’s book on Revelation, Part 2. I do appreciate the offer but my free time is very limited and I would have to keep a borrowed work too long ; if by any chance you have a second-hand work for sale no one else requires I would much like to have it.

Praying the Lord’s blessing and keeping on you and your co-workers, and with kind Christian regards from Yours very sincerely.

(Should any of our friends -have a copy of “Revelation of Jesus Christ” Part 2 by R. E. Streeter that they can spare, kindly advise us, and the price of same.—B. B. Institute.)

To Frank and Ernest, My Dear Friends—Thank you ever so much for the leaflets which I wrote and asked for; they were gratefully received. The “Peoples Paper” has been received safely and with my thanks also. I am sorry for being so long in replying.

1337

I have not been able to listen to), our session not since my first letter to you as, my radio is out of order and I don’t know when I will be able to get it repaired. So I am very sad at not being able to listen as I love this session. I used to think 10 o’clock would never come on Sundays, and “Come all ye Faithful” is my favourite hymn. My young daughter was also interested and my son also, but he is in the army now.

I would very much like the book “Foregleams of the Golden Age” so I will enclose the price of same in my next letter to you, also a small donation. Until then I will close with my sincere thanks and trusting it will not be too long until I can again hear your cheerful voices. When my radio is in working order it is very powerful and the reception is very clear and a joy to listen to. I pray that God will grant you both good health and many of His richest blessings so that you may long continue in this good work which I am very sure thousands and thousands of listeners like . myself must find a boon.

So now, my new found friends, I will say, Au-revoir, till we meet again whether it be on the air or through the post. And I’ll remain, Your sincere Friend.

Frank and Ernest, Dear Sirs—I am interested in your Bible Talks on Sunday mornings. I would like to have a copy please, or as many as you can send me, as I am seventy-one and a bit deaf and cannot hear it very well over the air. I read the Bible and your explanations would help me very much. I remain, Yours faithfully.

Western Australia.

To Frank and Ernest—I would like to thank you for forwarding to me the radio script “Baptized for the Dead,” and also the booklet “Hope Beyond the Grave.” As you state, you visited me a few years ago, but I am afraid I must admit that at that time I was very much immersed in the superstitious doctrines of the churches. However, after your visit (some time after) I realised the fallacy of the Trinity doctrine and in doing so many of the Scriptures became clear. But I still clung to the “consciousness after death” and “immortal soul” doctrine, . but trying to search for the definite truth I must admit the booklet “Hope Beyond the Grave” has revealed the truth to me and made the Scriptures clearer than ever. I think the booklet a marvellous little book, and I would not be without it.

Printed by Hickling & Powell Pty. Ltd., Lygon St., East Brunswick for Berean Bible Institute, Ermington Place, Kew, Melt). E4.