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Christmas and the Golden Age of Prophecy

STUDENTS of God's Word realise that the word "Christmas" does not appear in the Bible. The dictionary leaning of "Christmas" is, "An annual church festival, December 25th, in memory of the birth of Christ."

It does- not take any great knowledge to determine that December 25th would not be the correct date for the birth of Jesus, for the simple reason He was born at the opposite six months of the year to the time at which He died. As He died at the Passover season, at the end of March or early April, after 33/ years of life here on earth, His birth would have been towards the end of September or early October. However, we are not vitally concerned with the date of Christmas, but what Christmas stands for in the Word of God, and in the minds of people who think sincerely and seriously about the birth of Jesus and what that glorious event will yet mean to every human being who has ever lived.

The relationship between the birth of Jesus and the Golden Age of Prophecy is most marked in the Scriptures, and understandably so, for all hope for the fulfilment of the Golden Age of the Bible depends upon the birth, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In Rev. 13: 8 we read respecting our Lord that His great sacrifice was as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." This means that in God's great Plan He had already provided a Saviour, a great One who would provide the sacrifice as the Lamb of God, even before the human race was created. This helps us to see what a loving Heavenly Father we have, for there in God's plan was set the seal for the assurance that there would be fulfilled a Golden Age which would be pro- claimed in prophecy right from the creation and fall of man in the Garden of Eden, even as we have the assurance that "the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head"—in due time.

Then in Gal 4: 4, 5 the Apostle Paul reveals that there was a set time for the birth of Jesus as the world's Redeemer. God is an exact time keeper, so we read, "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law; to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the, adoption of sons." In other words, become sons of God; not by adoption, but real sons of God.

The fact that God allowed about 4,000 years of human history to pass before sending the Lord Jesus to become the world's Redeemer shows God's time table for events is most orderly and perfect. It is very fitting that Jesus' first advent, "in the fulness of time", was arranged sufficiently early in the history of mankind to allow about 2,000 years before His second advent. That means that between our Lord's first and second advents God set aside a period of 2,000 years, for a very special work, in addition to allowing 4,000 years to pass before our Lord came at His first advent.

It is evident also that our Lord's disciples mistook His first advent for the time for fulfilling many prophecies concerning His second advent, not knowing of God's important plan in the Gospel Age, between the two advents of Christ. We remember the conversation of the two disciples with our Lord on the way to Emmaus, as recorded in Luke 24. After the Lord had been crucified and raised the third day, two of His disciples were on their way to Emmaus, and they thought a stranger had caught up with them. These disciples were very sad indeed at the turn of events which ended with the death of their Master. They expressed their concern to the stranger in verse 21—"We trusted it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done." Apparently their minds had gone back to the time when the Lord referred to His resurrection on the third day. Hazy though it was in their minds, they expected something to happen on the third day. Some-

thing had happened of which they were unaware. Our Lord's words in verses 25-27 are most revealing, in explanation of the disciples' deep concern. "Then said he unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." What a wonderful outline the Lord must have given, as they walked along the way to Emmaus, beginning at Moses—that is, with the first five books of the Bible! How much is contained in those five books of Moses respecting the wonderful time when the Lord's glory would be manifested throughout the lengths and breadths of the whole world! God is going to bless all the families of the earth through the Seed of Abraham. These promises were passed on from Abraham to Isaac and Jacob, and to the twelve tribes of Israel. Our Lord must have gone through a number of the prophecies, explaining to these disciples what was to happen to the Lord as Messiah before He would enter into His glory. All this had to transpire before any glorious Golden Age of Prophecy could be fulfilled. Probably He would have referred to the Passover in Egypt, and the slaying of the Passover lamb, which pictured His own sacrifice as God's Passover Lamb to take away the sin of the world.

Verse 32 reveals the effect of Jesus' words on the disciples—"And they said one to another (after the Lord had been revealed to them by His familiar words and act of breaking bread), Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" What a thrill He must have given them when He outlined the wonderful records respecting Himself, from Moses and all the prophets respecting His necessary sacrifice, and then the glory of His coming kingdom! And doesn't the truth of God's Word have the same effect upon us? Doesn't it give us a thrill when we grasp the full meaning of the wonderful words of life, because of the death of God's Passover Lamb? Those early disciples were soon to learn that they were in the same position as their Master. All the followers of Christ suffer similar things before entering into their glory; in other words, before the Golden Age of Prophecy can be fulfilled.

Our Lord clearly indicated that His true followers must all be proved worthy of the inheritance with Him in glory before the Golden Age of Prophecy could begin, when He declared in Matt. 10: 24, 25—"The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?" "It is enough"—it is fitting—it is just what we would expect, that the disciples be as their Master, in being prepared for the glory with Him.

How clearly does the Apostle Paul show the preparation of the Body of Christ throughout the 2,000 years of the Gospel Age, before the Golden Age of Prophecy in the Millennial Age, in Heb. 2: 10, 11. "For it became him (God; it was just like God), for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren." In verse 11 the Captain and the "many sons" are "all of one"—one spirit, one ambition—all receiving the same experiences to fit all members—Head and Body—for the reign of glory. It pleased God, therefore, to bring many sons to glory, and our Lord Jesus is not ashamed to call His followers His brethren. That is a lovely thought!

In Rom. 6: 5 we are shown how the followers of the Master are linked together in their experiences with their Lord, if they are to be united with Him in the glory of the kingdom. "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." The qualifying statement there is, if we are planted together; otherwise we could not expect to be in the likeness of His resurrection.

The Apostle states further in respect of the followers of the Master, "If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Rom. 8: 17, 18.) What an amazing thought this is! This glory shall be revealed in the Church with Christ, if we suffer with Him. Then verse 19 reads—"For the earnest expectation of the creature (creation of mankind) waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." For the complete uncovering or revealing of these sons of God with their Lord on high, the whole creation is waiting, unwittingly, unknowingly. Christ and His church will be unveiled, and the glory of the Lord will come down upon all humanity. That is the time for which the "whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" is waiting in expectation. God has decreed that these many sons, with Christ their Head, shall inherit the heavenly glory, even as Jesus assured His disciples in Luke 12: 32—"Fear not little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." God delights to give the heavenly kingdom to this little flock, followers of the Master, who gladly walk in His steps, and have assurance of being associated with Him in the Golden Age of Prophecy.

Previously reference was made to the Passover in Egypt, when Israel was delivered through the sacrifice of the

Passover lamb, which pictured our Lord Jesus. God also gave Israel the Atonement Day sacrifices, which were typical of Christ and His followers. This typical significance is important in pointing forward to the real and lasting sacrifice for sins, as shown in Heb. 10: 1, and from verse 3. In this chapter we have a contrast between the typical sacrifices under the Law, and the real and lasting sacrifices of The Christ. “For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offer year by year continually make the corners thereunto perfect.... For in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins.” Paul is saying that the typical sacrifices were not efficacious; the very fact of the repetition taking place every year showed that the cleansing was not real, but pointed forward to the better sacrifices of the Gospel Age. “Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.” Previously God had accepted the typical animal sacrifices, but when His Lamb had come and paid the sacrifice, God had no more pleasure in the former offerings for sin.

In the typical animal sacrifices on the Day of Atonement for Israel, we have pictured the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus and His truly consecrated followers, whose justified humanity is on the altar of sacrifice, as was Jesus’ perfect humanity. After the typical sacrifices were completed on that 24-hour day, which pictured the whole of this Gospel Age, we find what happened with Israel pictured the Golden Age of Prophecy, for the Millennial Age, as shown in Lev. 9: 22-24—”And Aaron lifted up his hand toward the people, and blessed them. . . . And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people. And there came a fire out from before the Lord, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.” Here we have in type a picture of what will happen to the world of mankind when the great sacrifice of Christ and His Church is complete. The glory of the Lord will appear to all mankind. All mankind will know that Satan is bound and Christ is reigning, and the blessings will be for every human being who has ever lived, as they are obedient to the laws of the kingdom at that time. The resurrection will take place in an orderly fashion; each generation will come forth until all mankind are brought back from the death condition because of the sacrifice of Christ, and all shall know the Lord, from the least to the greatest. What a wonderful picture we have here in type, depicting the glorious outcome of the antitypical Day of Atonement!

How beautifully also did the prophet Isaiah speak of God’s returning favour to Israel in Isa. 40, and the glorious outcome for all people in verse 5—”The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.” Again in Hab. 2: 14, we have the Golden Age of Prophecy depicted in the words—”For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” We notice the particular reference to the “knowledge of the glory of the Lord”, implying that all mankind will truly know and understand the laws of the kingdom, and will be able to keep those laws as they walk up the Highway of Holiness back to perfection of life as in the Garden of Eden.

Many other prophecies reveal the Golden Age in unmistakable terms, such as Zech. 8, where we are told that Israel will be the leading nation in the new age, from which other nations will learn also to obey the Lord, and enjoy His blessings by obedience to His precepts, as indicated in verses 22 and 23. “Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.” The ten men apparently represent the nations at large. “We will go with you”—they will adopt the same attitude Israel has adopted at that time, in the worship of the true God.

No wonder the Apostle Peter, in comparing the vision on the Mount of Transfiguration with his knowledge of the wonderful prophecies of the Old Testament, declared—”We have a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. . . . For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the holy spirit.” (2 Pet. 1: 19, 21.) All those prophecies are God’s prophecies, given by those moved to write, by God’s holy spirit, messages which they themselves did not understand. That is why Peter says, “we have a more sure word of prophecy”, more revealing and important than that which was pictured in the vision on the Mount of Transfiguration. In the vision, Moses pictured the earthly phase of the kingdom, Elias pictured the spiritual phase of the kingdom, and with the Lord transfigured before them it was a beautiful representation of the establishment of Christ’s kingdom. But, says Peter, the “sure word of prophecy” is of greater value and importance, whereunto we do well to take heed.

The prophets of whom Peter speaks give us the same record as the angel who proclaimed the thrilling message

to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem, at the birth of our Saviour. We can well understand the fear of the shepherds when the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them. However, their fear would be calmed by the message of the angel—"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." That wonderful message was given nearly two thousand years ago, and it is understandable that people, *not* acquainted with God's plan of the ages, wonder when the fulfilment will be accomplished. Down through the centuries there has hardly been a time when there has not been war of some kind raging, yet the multitude of the heavenly host proclaimed—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." This announcement of the angels is just as much a prophecy as are all the other wonderful pronouncements, prior to and since the birth of our Saviour, all of which confirm the surety of the Golden Age of Prophecy being established and accomplishing the foretold blessings upon all the families of the earth.

What a wonderful salvation is revealed in the Word of God, made possible through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus. Surely it thrills our hearts to know humanity is to inherit the wonderful earthly kingdom of God, and live lastingly to God's praise! But what shall we say about those who are to be associated with Christ in dispensing the blessings from on high, who are planted together in the likeness of our Lord's death, that they may share in the likeness of His resurrection? That is indeed the glory that excelleth! No wonder the Apostle speaks of this inheritance as "so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." What a condescension on the part of our Heavenly Father to provide such a plan of redemption, to sacrifice such a beloved Son, and for that Son to delight to do the Father's will to taste death for all mankind, so that humanity may live again, to the praise of God, for all time.

ALABASTER BOXES

Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your love and tenderness sealed up until your friends are dead. Fill their lives with sweetness. Speak approving, cheering words while their ears can hear them and while their hearts can be thrilled and made happier by them; the kind things you mean to say when they are gone, say them before they go. The flowers you mean to send for their coffins, send to brighten and sweeten their homes before they leave them. If my friends have alabaster boxes laid away, full of fragrant perfumes of sympathy and affection, which they intend to break over my dead body, I would rather they would bring them out in my weary and troubled hours and open them, that I may be refreshed and cheered by them when I need them. I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without an eulogy, than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand. Post-mortem kindnesses do not cheer the burdened spirit. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary way—Matthew 26: 6-13. (Selected.)

WATCH AND WAIT AND PRAY

It is much easier to trust the Lord while busy in His work and, may be, able to comprehend the why, the wherefore, the purpose of what we are engaged in and able to see how it is all working out. It is easier to be faithful even unto death in the company of others who are fighting the same great fight of faith. Sometimes, however, the King requires a service apart from others, a special message perhaps unappreciated by those around us; we are to stand alone, maybe as a sentry on watch. It is then that we shall be proved, it is then that our faith will be tested. Have we been leaning on others for our courage, or has our faith been trusting implicitly in the Lord? Nansen, when waiting in the Polar region for the current to carry him along on his way to the Pole, said: "It wants ten times more strength of mind to sit still and trust in your theories and let Nature work, without your being able to lay as much as one stick across another to help, than it does to trust in working them out by your own energy." It all depends upon the quality of our faith, whether in the times of crisis, which are sure to be permitted, we shall with perfect trust be able to resign our all to the Good Shepherd, and enjoy the "peace amidst the commotion" which is the privilege of footstep followers of the Master.

"There is an arm that never tires
When human strength gives way;
There is a love that never fails
When earthly loves decay."

Russian War Implements

THIS article by Mr. John Weston, is printed for the second time by permission of the editor of "The Mount Zion Reporter", P.O. Box 568, Jerusalem, Israel.

No Wood or Coal for Seven Years

In Ezek. 38: 1-16, we have a remarkable prediction concerning the last days of this world's struggle. In chapters 38 and 39 of Ezek., we read that in the "latter days", or the "last days", or the "end" as it is variously translated, a great northern power will seek to overrun Israel. Now when you read in the Bible of northern power you have to look at the north of Israel. God's eye is always upon His own land—Israel. It belongs to God; and in a special way He is keeping it for His own purpose; so if you read in the Bible, south or east or west or north, it is always of Israel. It seems certain that we are now in the "last days", and there should be some great northern power preparing to make war with Israel. According to what we read in Ezek. 38: 5, 6, it will be a confederacy of nations, a great northern power taking the lead.

In verse 6 the names of the satellite countries are given—Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah. The last two have been identified by scholars as Germany and Turkey.

Well, twenty-five centuries have passed since all this was written in Ezekiel concerning Russia's might, and her ambitions in the "last days." Now Russia has developed into a gigantic power and is falling in line with the prediction in Ezek. 38. Now let me read further extracts from this remarkable chapter, from verse 8—"In the latter years (or the last days), thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel. . . . Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou and all thy bands and many people with thee", that is the people of the countries Named earlier in the chapter. Verse 12—"To take a spoil and to take a prey, to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations."

Within the last thirty years the Jews have returned to Israel from over 80 countries. That is what God is referring to here: "that are gathered out of the nations which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land." Verse 14—"In that day when my people of Israel—(You see how clearly God states it)—when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?" Of course, Russia knows it! "And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou and many people with thee."

It has been revealed that Russia plans to put 6,000,000 men into the battle of Israel; but when Russia does make war with Israel she is doomed to meet with crushing defeat, to be almost, if not entirely destroyed. This will not be by Israel nor by any other nation; she will be broken, says God: "Without hands." That is, no human hand will have anything to do with her defeat.

He says to the Russians, "Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou and all thy bands and the people that is with thee." He puts His signet to it. "For I have spoken it, saith the Lord God." (Ezek. 39: 4, 5.) Verses 9, 10—"And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons . . . and they shall burn them with fire seven years: so they shall take no wood out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire" (or make fire with weapons). What an extraordinary prediction! I hear a man over there saying: "That is not true, and it is foolish talk; what do you mean? Who ever heard today of burning weapons?"

I was speaking in Holland on this subject, and when I had finished I walked down the hall and shook hands with one or two. A gentleman speaking fairly good English said to me, "Have you not got a difficulty?" and I said, "Yes, I have many difficulties, to what do you refer?" "I refer to what you said, to what you read in that particular passage of Ezekiel, 'burning the weapons with fire'." "Yes", I said, "I have a difficulty." He said, "But I believe it anyway, because God said it."

Well, the responsible people came to me after the service, and said, "Would you give this address in Delft tomorrow, what you have said here?" I said, "Yes, God willing." So I gave the address in Delft, and when I came to this verse, "they shall set on fire and burn the weapons and they shall burn them with fire seven years", a gentleman walked up the middle aisle, and he had a slip of paper in his hand. When he got near the platform he handed it to me, and I looked, but alas, it was in Dutch, so I turned to the chairman and said, "Will you kindly read this, and if it has to do with our subject tonight, would you interpret it to me and let the people know what it says?" So he wrote on the back this interpretation—"This wood is stronger than steel, and more elastic than springs, the name is Lignostone, and is a Dutch invention which the Russians are using for their implements of war. It was invented by in Ter Apel; I am superintendent of the! Dejft, Gas Works." Well, I thought that very interesting; it was throwing light on this passage.

I returned to Apeldoorn and my host said to me: "How did you get on?" (He had met with a motoring accident and was unable to be present). I said, "Oh, all right, but one or two raised the difficulty about burning the weapons with fire in Ezekiel 39; and then the manager of the Delft Gas Works handed me this note. It was most interesting." He said, "Oh, my Brother, I wish I had known what you were going to speak about, because I have a pamphlet, if you have patience to hear me read it. The Russians are using that Dutch invention for their weapons of war", and he read me the pamphlet. I thanked him very much, for that threw a flood of light upon the passage.

In England I was later speaking on the same subject and when I had finished a gentleman came to me and said, "Have you ever seen that material?" and I said, "No, I have not." "Well", he said, "We are interested in it, you know, since we are making the cogs of our wheels of it; and if you would like some they always let me have a few sacks to burn on my fire instead of coal. I will send you some." I only wish he had sent me more; he sent me several blocks and they burnt better than coal. I was delighted with them, and I just kept a little piece to show people when I give an address on the subject. I do not know what it is; it looks like twenty or thirty pieces of plywood pressed together by terrific steam pressure. This English gentleman said, "We are using it for the cogs of our wheels in the great lorries; and the Dutch are using it in their Gas Works, and the Russians are using it for their weapons of war."

How true Scripture is. Just think of it; the Jews will be burning these weapons (and there are now over 2,000,000 Jews in Israel and there will be more when this takes place). They will be burning these weapons on their fires and will not need to go to the forests to cut down any wood for seven years. There again I say, this is fantastic, God is true, every WORD of God is true, and every WORD of God is pure; you can trust this Book, whoever you are, you can trust it to the last letter. Every word of God is inspired; let the critics say what they like, it proves their ignorance of the Scriptures if they deny it. Then in verse 12 we are told that it will take Israel seven months to bury the Russian dead.

TRACTS AVAILABLE

The article "The Destiny of Israel and Egypt in' Bible Prophecy" which appeared in the last issue of "Peoples Paper" is now available in tract form. Friends are invited to procure these free tracts, which are provided from the Tract Fund of the Institute. Please state the number that can be wisely used when ordering..

Transforming the Mind

(Contributed Address.)

(Rom. 12: 2; Phil. 2: 5)

THERE is much we do not know about the functions of the human mind. However, some information has been discovered in this day of increased enlightenment, and since we are living in a very eventful period of the history of the human race, when so many minds are being subjected to so much propaganda or brain washing, so often of a subtle nature, which has such far-reaching effects in its influence on the minds of men, women and children of all ages, it may be helpful to review some important things which are known about the human mind. Then we can consider some scriptures which will help us to nurture and to cultivate our renewed minds, "the mind of Christ" which is in all who have fully consecrated their lives to the service of God, and who have been begotten by the holy spirit to the new nature, the spiritual nature.

The dictionary defines "mind" as "the seat of consciousness, thought, volition and emotional, intellectual powers; memory; opinion." Rom. 12: 2 states—"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind"—Greek "nooce." Dr. Strong gives the meaning—"the intellect, i.e., mind (divine or human; in thought, feeling, or will); by implication meaning." In Phil. 2: 5, Paul says, "Let this **mind** be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Dr. Strong defines the word here from the Greek "froneh'-o" meaning "to exercise the mind, i.e., entertain or have a sentiment or opinion; by implication to be (mentally) disposed (more or less earnestly in a certain direction); intensively to interest oneself in (with concern or obedience)."

Having before us these definitions of the word "mind", we wish to analyze some further details in this connection; namely, Why must this human mind be renewed? Let us think of the mind as that **something** which man has above all others of the animal creation--the capacity to think, to reason, to plan—the power to translate thoughts into actions. The scope for reaching out after new horizons, and the power to visualize the thinking and planning of today, put into actual effect tomorrow. That something, if in tune with the Master Mind of the universe, can be capable of the greatest good, and rise to the greatest heights, even on the human plane of being. After all man was created in the image of God—in His moral likeness, a reasoning sentient being, Gen. 1: 26, 27. Even today when

so much evil is in the world, there are many noble examples which show up the finer qualities in man's make-up as being of divine origin.

Yet, if the mind is given over to the influence of the Adversary, the Satanic forces of evil, spiritual wickedness in high places, this same mind can be capable of: the most diabolical evil and *cruelty*, and the greatest power for the destruction of things good and pure, almost beyond words to describe.

This **thing** called the mind is that which directs man's everyday thoughts and actions and has some influence for good, bad, or indifference not only upon himself, but also upon all those with whom he associates each day. Should not we then, as Christians, seek to know something of not only what man has learned, but more importantly what God's Word has to say in respect of such an important part of every one of His creatures, and more especially in respect of those who are His New Creation, His peculiar people, 1 Pet. 2: 9—those whom He has drawn by the holy spirit to Jesus Christ—John 6: 44.

Volumes have been written by men who have studied the human mind and its behaviour. A knowledge of some of the basic findings in this connection is helpful in enabling us to appreciate what a remarkable piece of electronic mechanism is the human mind. It has been called "man's automatic steering mechanism", and when we expand this thought and relate it to what God's Word has to say on the same subject, we see just how very important it is that our minds are stayed upon our Heavenly Father and His righteousness—Isa. 26: 3.

It is said that **one tenth part** of every human mind is conscious and nine tenths subconscious; that is, outside the range of attention. It is through this very remarkable arrangement that our Creator has built into the human brain what can be called a **subconscious homing device**, and which is in its effect really a subconscious feed back cycle. It works on this principle: we all know that man is endowed with five senses—sight, hearing, feeling or touch, smell and taste. So each day humanity judges its affairs by the exercise of these five senses. Every day, every hour, every moment of our wakeful or conscious time, through these senses, mental impressions of situations that continually develop and pass around us in the daily course of our lives are **fed back** through the one tenth or conscious part of our mind to the larger or subconscious part, the nine tenths. Examples are the constant barrages of advertising, radio, TV, hoarding or by whatever means. Thus any repeated impression or thought fed back in this manner builds up a tremendous bank of subconscious energy.

These thoughts and impressions are received by the subconscious as the operational "data" on "the way things are", just in the same manner in which a programme is fed into a computer. The subconscious then goes to work to suppress or expand our performance to conform exactly to this set pattern. Can we see then why Solomon said—"As a man thinketh in his heart, or mind, so is he"? Prov. 23: 7. This, then, is how man's daily performance is controlled.

If a man takes a daily "failure", or "life is difficult" or "no progress" attitude; in other words, a constant negative thinking programme, and builds up thereby a self image of this kind he can be sure that his subconscious will use all the forces or resources of the human body to limit his energy—his creative ability, analytical skill and perception—so that he conforms exactly to the "operating formula" of this image. He literally **cannot do better** than his self image, which has come from his thoughts and mental perception. Observations of results of his performance must not lead to negative "can't do better" frame of mind. Reaction of others to things he has done must not lead to constant thoughts of, "I cannot seem to please anyone" attitude. His visualization of things he fears might happen or hopes will happen must not make him give up trying to think and act and hope positively.

Let us see, then, how some of these thoughts can be applied to our Christian lives and also how they apply in answer to our question as to why the human mind needs to be changed and renewed by the transforming power of Christ in us, and working through us by the power of the holy spirit. Rom. 12: 2, which has been quoted, goes on to give a reason why the human mind needs renewing—"so that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Yes, indeed how very true. The veil of **human mindedness** in the natural man hangs between him and the sacred spiritual truths of God. The only way to set it aside is to make a full consecration to do God's will which is to sacrifice the flesh and its interests. It is in the glorious and privileged condition typified by the Holy of the Tabernacle that the consecrated children of God enjoy their inner life and walk with God. Yes, this is quite beyond the sight of the world and the worldly. What a precious thought!

In the "Holy" we are experiencing the transforming and it is during this process that we are learning more and more, that we may **prove** what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly." "This is the will of God, even your sanctification." "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth." (1 Thes. 5: 23; 4: 4; John 17: 17.) What a privilege is this proving? The Greek word here translated "prove" was used in olden times in connection with testing or proving of metals and means to investigate, examine and

discern. By careful tests under close examination and observation the metal was proved. So it is we **prove the will of God**.

How do we do this? One way is surely through the study of His Word individually and with others, and by prayer and faith. We all know the joyful experiences of gathering around God's Holy Word collectively. On such occasions we meditate upon the Scriptures, we endeavour to rightly divide the word of truth-2 Tim. 2: 15. With sentiment of praise and worship in our hearts we wait upon the Lord and He **speaks** to us through His Word..

How important this is—assembling ourselves together in the right attitude of heart and mind.

So, then, as we come to see less and less of ourselves, and more and more of Christ and His spirit of love in our hearts, cannot we see how the subconscious feed back cycle works out in our Christian lives? As an instance, if we come to the meeting for the Bible Study and feed into our one tenth conscious mind critical thoughts that are not positive or constructive, or not in harmony with God's love of what this Brother or that Sister has to say, instead of endeavouring to see Christ and His words, these negative impressions feed into the nine tenths or subconscious part, and build up to become the force which directs our daily living. If we continually dwell on the weaknesses, real or imagined, of our Brothers and Sisters, see always their faults instead of their Christlike qualities, then just as surely as we are feeding those impressions into the subconscious mind, to that extent we will be the poorer in our own spiritual lives.

Oh, if we would only follow our Lord's example of positive action when tempted to criticise, condemn or judge our brethren. When tempted to listen to something which is in the nature of gossip or evil speaking, if we instead resolve to think and speak as would our Lord and Master were He in our position, how greatly we would enrich our Christian living. How much more influence for good would our daily lives become if we see to it that each day and hour and minute, through our conscious mind we are feeding into our computer (as it were) the right programme for daily Christian living. Is this, then, how the mind is renewed?

This may mean a complete change of ideals and a new attitude toward our whole way of living—"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face." Our Heavenly Father asks from us a full surrender, full consecration, nonconformity to this world and a transforming to the kingdom requirements. Then, and only then, can God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness fully shine into our hearts and minds by the gospel to give us the light of the knowledge of His glory in the face of Jesus Christ. This knowledge cannot be comprehended by the natural mind-1 Cor. 2: 14.

What is the result of this transforming work? Development of the character-likeness of Christ. Growth in the fruits of the spirit—Gal. 5: 22, 23. Daily development? Yes! A desire to please Him in all things and a love in our hearts which comes from God the Father. How do we continue in this way against the powers of Satan aligned with all the forces of evil to thwart God's plan? We can gird up the loins of our mind-1 Pet. 1: 13. We can think on all those virtues of Phil. 4: 8 (please read).

Can we develop or cultivate our five earthly senses to a greater appreciation of our daily needs as new creatures in Christ Jesus? Or would we say, we also have what can be called five spiritual senses corresponding to the five natural senses?

Can these be cultivated? Yes, indeed, as we come more and more into Christ, the **"eyes"** of our understanding open wider and wider to things not seen by the natural eye. By degrees, the **"hearing"** of faith increases until every good promise of the divine Word is forceful and meaningful. In time we come into close **"touch"** with the Lord and His invisible powers (the power of prayer and praise). After a time and little by little we **"taste"** that the Lord is gracious and precious. As we progress, we come to appreciate those sacrifices and incense prayers which are of a **sweet odour** to the Lord.

Can the Christian, then, be described as having a sixth or spiritual sense which enables him even though still in the earthly body to understand things quite beyond the perception of those around him, who are not begotten of the holy spirit? Yes, indeed-1 Cor. 2: 9, 10, 14 (please read). How grand, how glorious, how rich is the daily experience of all those, who, by the grace of God, are finding that the things of this earth are growing dim, as the "deep things of God" revealed to us by His spirit, come more and more into focus, as the "mind of Christ" which is in us (1 Cor. 2: 16), enables us to appreciate the transforming work which has given us this renewal of mind.

What exaltation, what thanks are due to our Heavenly Father as we experience with Paul the joy of understanding even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations but now is made manifest to His saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles which is "Christ in you, the hope of glory", Col. 1: 26, 27. May God bless to our hearts and minds the thoughts presented

here, that we may see the daily need, the constant need of feeding through our one tenth conscious part of our mind the thoughts and impressions which are godly and pure, so that the force which is built up in the subconscious will direct our daily performance in ways which will be well pleasing to our Heavenly Father, and edifying to all those with whom we daily associate.

Melbourne Christmas Convention

The brethren of the Melbourne Class extend a cordial invitation to all friends to attend their Annual Convention to be held this year (D.V.) on December 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th in the Masonic Hall, 254 Swan Street, Richmond. Further information from the Class Secretary—Mr. J. B. Hiem, 16 Kennedy Street, South Oakleigh, Victoria, 3167.

OUR BIBLE TRANSLATED

A new print has been made recently of the very interesting and informative booklet, "Our Bible Translated", compiled some time ago by the brethren of "The Dawn". To cover cost of materials this booklet is supplied at 10c per copy, post paid.

Oxford Teachers' Bible, with References, India paper, thumb index, Brevier clear type, Persian Morocco binding, with Oxford Helps, Subject Index and Concordance, \$12.50.

A very good Oxford Bible, with References, India paper, thumb index, Brevier clear type, Persian Morocco binding, is now available at \$10.50.

"**The Creator's Grand Design**" is the title of a 240 page cloth bound book, from the "Dawn" brethren. It is a helpful study covering the plan of God as a whole. Supplied at \$1.25, post paid.

"MOST HOLY FAITH"

Any of our friends having a copy of "Most Holy Faith" not being used and are willing to dispose of it are asked to communicate with this office, stating the price desired.