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The Work and Ways of God.

(Revelation 15:1-4.) (Convention Address.)

WE have here described a class of people who are represented as singing a song, and judging by the few lines that are given it is a very beautiful song. The theme is lofty and exalted. They sing with great reverence, admiration and exaltation; they sing not of themselves but the praises of the Almighty God. They have seen and experienced some of the wonderful works of their Lord and that is why they sing.

There is, as you know, special rejoicing for those who have come through a great conflict and have gained the victory, and indeed these are said to have gained a victory. (Verse 2.) Yes, it is a great joy, not merely a thrill, but an abiding joy to be on the winning side. These had opposed all that unrighteousness, misrepresentations, deceit, falsehood, flattery and abominations represented here by the beast and his image---a counterfeit religion, a counterfeit worship; yes, a counterfeit king of nations, and kingdom—which all worshipped but those who learned this song of Moses and the Lamb.

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Note also, that this song is sung at a time when the wrath of God is about to be poured out upon the nations, and in fact continues to be sung while the various agencies (represented by seven angels) are bringing calamities upon the rest of mankind, as described in Chapter 16, finally ending in Armageddon, in which every man-made system and worship will forever cease.

Now the point is: these singers know all this in advance; they are witnesses of great and marvellous works which they see coming to pass. Their spiritual lives are not affected or troubled by these calamities. Why? Look at their position. In symbolic language they are said to stand "on a sea of glass." You know, off the Queensland coast runs the Great Barrier Reef. I am told that parties are taken out to it in a glass-bottomed boat, through which they can see the ocean bed and the wonderful coral gardens below, the marvellous formations of coral built by millions of tiny sea creatures.

The position of these singers in Rev. 15 is, as it were, above the sea, above the masses of mankind. They figuratively stand on a higher level and from that position, through the eye of faith, see the judgments of God upon the nations; they are calm, serene, untroubled. Their life is hid with Christ in God. To the eye of faith all is transparent as glass. Furthermore, they are very joyful; they see the great and marvellous, just and true works and ways of God.

But who are these standing upon the sea of glass? They are a part of that class which appears before us continually throughout the Book of Revelation. They are first referred to as servants; the Apostle John who wrote the Revelation speaks of himself as a servant also. They are referred to as those "loved of Jesus and washed from sins"; as kings and priests; as a congregation or church—seven churches. They are described as suffering and enduring great persecution; as in deadly conflict with the powers and rulers of darkness. They receive the special care, discipline, encouragement, chastenings, love and overruling providence of the Lord Jesus. They are described as redeemed to God out of every nation, also as witnesses of God and His truth, and at one time as almost overpowered and silenced by Antichrist.

Then again they are infused with new hope, zeal and life which strikes fear into the hearts of their enemies. Later they come to view again, but this time in association with One for whom they have fought such a good fight. "And I looked, and lo, a Lamb stood on Mt. Sion, and with him an hundred and forty-four thousand." (Rev. 14:1.) They are represented as singing a new song—as guileless and faultless—and as the firstfruits. And now here in this chapter 15 they had gotten the victory over the beast and his image, and stand upon the sea of glass, a position which they have not previously occupied, for it is a time when national judgments of God come upon the nations. These are no others than the true followers of Jesus, the saints of God, from Pentecost down to the present time. With such a long and varied experience is it any wonder that they sing, "Great and marvellous are thy works.. just and true are thy ways, thou King

of nations.”

A song symbolizes a beautiful and harmonious expression; it represents the proclamation of the Gospel, the good news in all its various phases. It is here the song of Moses and the Lamb. The followers of the Lamb, the overcomers, rejoice in the beautiful harmony of Moses (the Law and the Prophets) and Jesus and the Kingdom of heaven.

Now they sing of the great and wonderful works of God. Have we discerned, ourselves, some of the greatness of God? Where would we begin to find out about the greatness of God? Well, generally you would say, the Word of God. We see everything there necessary for our life and godliness. Looking about us, as Paul says in Romans, God is known or discerned by the things He has made. So that we see the great and wonderful works of God in creation, the things that God has made. There is a scripture which speaks of this in the Old Testament. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech, there are no words, their voice is not heard; but their line is gone out through all the world, and to the end of the earth their words. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber.” So when we consider the heavens and the wonderful things He has created, surely they are great and wonderful works. I was reading some time ago in “The Dawn” a piece concerning discoveries astronomers have made regarding other planets. It will just serve to show some of the wonderful works of the Lord.

“Astronomers say there are millions of island universes in infinite space, all spinning in a circle so great as to be beyond our conception, and around some mighty sun from which all power proceeds, the seat of the omnipotent, eternal God. Scientists have given much time and study to the motion of these heavenly bodies. It is difficult for us to realize we are travelling at a great speed on three or four different journeys at a time, but scientists say we are wheeling like a merry-go-round on the earth’s axis, at a speed of more than 1,000 miles an hour, while at the same time we are travelling with the earth on its journey round the sun nearly 19 miles a second, nearly 60 times the speed of our own merry-go-round. Besides this, scientists say we are rushing towards the constellation Lyra at the rate of 121 miles a second.

“Then they say the delicate misty quality which may be seen like a milky band across the heavens is not only composed of myriads of stars, but that it really forms the outer rim of our universe, but not the entire known cosmos or order of things in the heavens, which may be more properly called ‘multiverse’. They have discovered that the great circle of the heavens is like a disc or a double convex lens, its diameter in the plan of the Milky Way being 6-10 times greater than the diameter perpendicular to the plane. Every unit in this vast system is in motion, possessing several motions like our sun and his family. More than this, astronomers have discovered huge conglomerates of 30 thousand million stars, and each one like our sun, and doubtless many with planet families, so vast in its dimensions that light, which travels at 186 million miles a second, requires one hundred thousand or more years to travel from boundary to boundary across the Milky Way, and this rotating around its centre just as the earth is rotating around its axis.

So it seems not only is every unit in this universe in motion, but the whole thing is moving too. For instance, with a flock of sheep, every sheep may be in motion, but not travelling. With the universe, every unit is travelling, and the whole mass is travelling. It is extraordinary. Our sun, they tell us, is almost one-quarter of the way out from this great centre, and its speed about that centre is estimated to be at the rate of about 200 miles a second. How much greater, then, must be the rotating speed on the perimeter of the Milky Way.

“Furthermore, scientists tell us that they have discovered many thousands of similar universes located a vast distance from each other and from our own island universe. Indeed, the further men advance in their explorations of space, the more astounding become their discoveries. . . All these bodies are possibly travelling in systematic order around one great Centre of Centres, called in the Scriptures the Heaven of Heavens, the throne of the Eternal, the habitation of God, from whence the great Creator directs all the operations of His illimitable sphere of action. How truly do His works speak of the greatness and grandeur of His infinite power, and the depths and perfections of His unsearchable wisdom. ‘Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty!’”

These heavenly bodies, displaying the glory and magnificence of the Creator’s works, should inspire reverence and awe for that wonderful and incomprehensible Being whom we worship. The Psalmist was inspired to exclaim, “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? The little speck, here today and gone tomorrow. The whole nations are just as a drop in a bucket, or as the dust of a balance, you would hardly take the trouble to blow away. Yes, this God, He is concerned about man.

Now the next thing we could keep before us in the wonderful works of creation would be man. When we consider man, what a wonderful creation he is. Man is made in the moral and intellectual likeness of his Creator. He is able to reason and arrive at conclusions, which is not given to the lower animals. He is endowed with a free will, able to choose between right and wrong principles, even in his fallen condition. What shall we see when he shall again be restored to his perfection and have the power to live on indefinitely!

David said, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Now, whether a man stands at the equator, where the temperature is 125 degrees, or whether he stands at the pole, where the temperature is about 75 degrees below zero, the temperature of the body remains the same, about, it is said 98 to 99 degrees, and a change of temperature of 200 degrees does not immediately affect the body temperature very materially. That is because the Great First Cause, the great Creator, was a master mind, a master builder, a master creator. Yes, this is a wonderful organism.

David goes on to say, "I was curiously wrought." Now that word "wrought" literally means "embroidered", and the figure evidently is that the human form is compared to a variegated garment, beautifully and wonderfully knit together, producing beauty and harmony and strength. I suppose most of you have seen a diagram of the human body, with the plan of the nerves and veins and arteries. That is a wonderful picture to look at, so complicated yet so marvellous and contributing just what is needed for the body to function perfectly, and also to produce strength and harmony.

Now take the power of thought. That is very wonderful when you come to think about it. Thought is invisible, and flashed in a moment from the brain to any part of the body. It becomes visible in word or look or action. The potentialities of thought and speech fill us with awe or fearfulness or with joy and gladness. This is especially so with those who have become Christians and given their lives to the Lord. It was Paul who said we are to glorify God in our bodies and in our spirits, which are His.

Now going a little further, there is still another creation of God which is not yet finished. It is quite separate and distinct from anything yet been made. Solomon said once there was nothing new under the sun. Well, there is something of which he never knew, and that is the New Creation. This New Creation of God is a wonderful thing. It began with Jesus, and then since Pentecost we are spoken of as God's workmanship, God's creating. Being so, we know it will be a pretty good job. We have experienced that ourselves and we can sing, too, "Great and marvellous are thy works."

So don't you think, then, that the transformation of the lives of us and others who have been by nature sinners, condemned, disobedient, faulty, weak, don't you think it is wonderful, a miracle, the change that He has made in our lives? I think it has been said, and truly said, that the Christian life is a miracle of grace.

One would naturally think that God would choose the best material for this New Creation, seeing it is something extraordinary and distinct from every creation, and when finally completed it is to be Divine and possessing His own qualities and nature. One would think, naturally, that He would find the best material for this, but no, we have His word for it that He does not use the best from this world's standpoint. In Corinthians Paul says, "You know your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called; but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things that are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are. Why does He choose these things that are despised and weak? I suppose you know yourselves. "That no flesh should glory in his presence." That is, that none should glory in their own attainments, but in the Creator, who is the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

The true church in due time, as described in another place, is "all glorious within". "Her clothing is of wrought gold", or inwrought with gold. Then again in the New Testament, she is presented "without spot or wrinkle or any such thing." This describes to us her purity and holiness, the inward purity and holiness that must and will be attained by every individual of the Church of the Firstborns, as well as collectively. She will, when perfected, dwell forevermore in the presence of God. So in due time, when perfected and completed, she will possess all that beauty and splendor and purity and the beauty of holiness which will just fit her for her position. Mark you too, we have to attain to that condition before we come into that presence, then we will be quite at home, won't we? The best way to do this, and the only way to attain to this beauty of holiness and perfection of mind at the present time, and the beauty in the resurrection, is by faithful application to our lives of the truths of the Word of God, and constantly keeping before us the glorious perfections of the hope of the New Creation, Christ Jesus. Let us keep before us the words, "So shall the King greatly desire thy beauty; for he is thy Lord, and worship thou him".

This brings us to the question, What constitutes greatness? "Great and marvellous are thy works". I would put it, that greatness is really the beauty of holiness. That makes up a lot. That is why the Lord is great, He is great in holiness. There are many Scriptures which bear that out. "The Lord is great in his kindness toward us." Joel says too, "The loving-kindness of the Lord is great". Then we read in the Psalms, "The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great mercy." "His merciful kindness is great toward us." Again, "Great are thy tender mercies,

O God." Can't we say the same things—the Lord has done us marvellous kindnesses. "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereto we are glad." That is because He is great in holiness. Now if we can just get this view of the greatness of God, then we can take up our position with those singers and sing, "Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." So we can sing this song, can't we—not whisper it, but sing

it out.

It is not always those persons who make a great commotion or great noise that accomplish the greatest things. Most things that create noise are not so powerful. Take for instance the story of Elijah, when the Lord passed by. First of all there was a great, strong wind that rent the mountains and burst the rocks. The Lord was not in that. Next followed the earthquake. The Lord was not in the earthquake. Then followed the fire, the electrical storm. The Lord was not in that. After this followed a still, small voice. This frightened Elijah more than the upheavals of nature. He is spoken of as covering his head with his cloak. So the still, small voice many times does display His mighty power by a few calm yet commanding words. You remember how Jesus spoke to the raging sea of Galilee, "Peace, be still", and there was a great calm. Just a few quiet words changed that lunatic who dwelt amongst the tombs. A few quiet words, and he was restored to peace, quietness and soundness of mind, and sat at Jesus' feet. Peace and quietness are often where greatest power is.

We can consider, too, what David said, "Thy gentleness hath made me glad." Can't we say the same thing?

"Knowest thou not that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Yes, we have seen something of the greatness and gentleness of God. It is because of the Lord's great kindness and mercy in dealing with us, and not dealing with us according to our iniquities, but according to His great mercy which He has shown for us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Lord, that makes this such a wonderful thing. Indeed, the very fact that He has not marked our iniquities but has granted us this grace, has shown up His greatness more. By nature we are undone and imperfect and disobedient. His great kindness is shown to us through Jesus Christ, so that through taking up the provisions of faith and consecration we are able to be called sons and daughters of God. As each counts his many blessings which he has received since coming into Christ, and compares these to what he might have been without it, then the contrast will be all the more. Yes, the gentleness of God has indeed changed our lives. There is great power in love and mercy, and it does indeed transform where nothing else will do so.

So the Lord, as we can experience, has not made us great because we were deserving of it. By nature we were all so imperfect, but have now been able to see how this transformation has been brought about, therefore we can join in with the singers and praise Him for this great and marvellous work He has shown towards us. All His ways are righteous and true. We have seen that. He has a true way of doing things. He is not only wonderful and great and marvellous in His works, but has great and true ways of doing things. Many people have great and wonderful power in their own direction, but have not just and true ways.

We can see then how His justice, true dealings, and righteousness are shown in man's creation in the beginning. Man was given his home, everything as supplied to him, and the only thing required was to be obedient. It was more than just, it was generous. But man, as we know, disobeyed and came under the Lord's displeasure. The death sentence came upon him because of disobedience. The Lord was under no obligation in the first place to bring man into existence. There was no obligation to raise him out of death. But he allowed things to take their course, and arranged things in such a way that a greater demonstration of His power might be manifest. Then as the Scriptures tell us, the race is dying through one man, so for the welfare of the whole creation it was just and righteous that God should destroy evildoers. It was just and true that Adam must return to earth from whence he was taken.

So it seemed as if things had ended. It is just and true as the Lord said, Man cannot be released except by a ransom. Man can only be redeemed in one way, by someone else taking his place. "Jesus, by the grace of 'God, tasted death for every man.'" Jesus voluntarily gave Himself, put Himself in the sinner's place so that the sinner might go free, and therefore again we have a demonstration of God's justice. So we read now that God can be just, yet the justifier of him that believes in Jesus. That is something too, that the singers know. We know God is just and true by the way He deals with us and with the whole human race. This is part of the song of Moses and the Lamb. Therefore, in view of this, hey 'can have absolute confidence and trust in God that He will carry out His warnings, and also fulfil His promises. Through faith and justification we have been acquitted from that condemnation.

In due time the glad tidings will be proclaimed to all mankind, because the Apostle says so. "God will have all men to be saved", saved out of this Adamic condemnation, and then come to a knowledge of the truth about Him and His way of regaining all they had lost. That will come about, as Paul says, "in due time". That, then, is another reason why the singers sing. God has an absolutely just and true way of doing things. Aren't you glad all the families of the earth are to be blessed? And he has prepared a kingdom, which will fully be able to cope with all this, and this kingdom will have the backing of Divine power and give mankind a chance to make good what they lost through Father Adam, and this will entail a marvellous demonstration of power, the recreation of millions of beings who have died. There will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust, all that are in their graves. It will mean reproducing again each individual identity, and also the knowledge of their past experience. That will be a great and wonderful work! He alone could do it. Perhaps you can reproduce the voice of a man who died sixty years ago. We could bring a machine in to do that.

If mankind can make a machine to produce something which has perished, it is surely no great thing that God should raise the dead. It is a simple matter for Him to reproduce, not only the voice, but everything pertaining to it, because He has divine power. We might have thought at one time the phonograph was wonderful, but it gives us a feeling of awe to think what God will do. This is a marvellous demonstration of the wonderful works and ways of God.

It is just like God to do that. Wouldn't you give mankind a fair chance too, to regain the things lost, if you had half the power? We would like to do something like that now, but we know we have not the power and it is not the time, but in due time the Church and Christ shall be glorified, and "greater things than these shall ye do". It is a wonderful time to come to the millions who from bondage will return.

It would not be so very wonderful to save a few of mankind as we used to believe at one time, and condemn all the rest; not only condemn them, but leave them in torment for ever and ever. That would not be very great, would it?

But there will be great and wonderful works when God's plan is finished, giving everyone a chance to make good, and not condemn those to misery or eternal death who have not had a chance to hear the Gospel. It would not be very wonderful to save a few, and have all the rest good for nothing. But it will be a wonderful thing to see a world full of restored human beings at the end of the next age. I am proud of that Gospel, aren't you? It is just and true of God to do this, and He will do it. How do we know? Because the singers say so. "Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy; for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest." (Rev. 15:4.)

Yes, God will reveal His mighty acts in the great overthrow of evil, the great judgments coming upon the nations, and the fact will be that the nations cannot come to any other conclusion but that the Lord has humbled the proud looks of men. He alone shall be exalted in that day. Yes, He will be the King of kings, and He will uncover to the astonished mind and vision of the world His great and marvellous works. His judgments will be made manifest.

The Lord has wonderful ways of dealing with us, too. Sometimes perhaps He sends us various experiences that we might think very strange, things perhaps we cannot understand. He may permit strange trials or difficulties to come to us. Sometimes we might feel distressed with the storms of life. If you feel like that sometimes, just read the 27th chapter of Acts, where you can see and consider and visualise Paul's journey to Rome. There was that ship, driven and tossed unmercifully by the violence of the storm. The tackling and gear had to be thrown overboard, the travellers were wet and cold and drenched with the sea spray, the vessel was leaky. For fourteen days there was no change, the ship filling with water and still no relief from the fury of the storm. Then, when neither sun nor stars appear, and when all that is visible seems to fail you and all hope of deliverance is gone, say to your fellow travellers, as Paul did, to those to whom sometimes we might be giving advice and they have not hearkened and bring us and ourselves even into danger, "Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer. . . I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."

Now the Lord, even though He does not always make the storm a calm, does overrule and control and direct the issue involved so that a way of escape is provided. But you may even have to abandon things like the tackling of the ship. You might have to throw overboard things you once thought necessary, but which now must go in order to keep your spiritual balance. Even things which you depend upon — if they are wrecked while sailing through the ocean of life, still say, I believe in God. We shall get to land without loss of life. Yes, this is full assurance of faith in the great and wonderful, just and true ways and works of God.

PEOPLES PAPER AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM.

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Europe Simmering, Unrest after War.

UNDER the above headings the following despatch from Osmar White, Melbourne "Herald" War Correspondent in France, appeared some few weeks ago in the Melbourne press, and will no doubt be of special interest to students of the Bible. While the Lord's people seek to promote peace with all whom they come in contact, they realise that the present social and political order (as well as the ecclesiastical and financial elements) must pass away preparatory to the establishment of Christ's Kingdom, in the near future. (See Heb. 12:26-28; 2 Pet. 3:10-13.) Reports such as this indicate fulfilment of prophecy before our eyes; it is as follows:—

Political and military observers who came to the Continent with the armies of liberation are now ruefully aware that the collapse of Germany will not necessarily mean the end of war in Europe.

The unhappy business in Greece and the recent Belgian riots are merely the first superficial evidence of a great revolution which inevitably will sweep Europe when the Nazis are finally broken—indeed, a revolution which has begun to sweep Europe even before the Nazis are broken, and whose symptoms are repressed only by the presence of powerful British and American armies which must maintain a semblance of order and stability behind their own lines while finishing off the Germans.

The repressive effect of these new armies of "occupation" does not offer, and is not likely to offer, any permanent solution of the problems which are causing deep-seated unrest among the European populations.

Stirrings in France.

It is extraordinary to observe how clearly this is realised by the Continental public and how ignorant of the true situation are the public in the United States and Britain.

If you talk about "the end of the war" to a Frenchman today, as likely as not he will shrug his shoulders and inquire cynically, "What war, monsieur?"

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He does not regard the possibility of a new civil war in Spain to overthrow Franco, the settlement of the Polish question, or questions about the reconstitution of Middle European States like Czechoslovakia and Jugoslavia as mere odds and ends to be tied up after the victory march in Berlin. He does not believe that the fall of the Hitler gang will necessarily end Fascism in Europe.

He will point out with ice-cold realism that only about 30,000 French Fascists and collaborationists fled to Germany with Petain and Laval and a few thousand were arrested in the "purification." Ten or twenty times as many remain behind, and there is not the slightest reason to believe that they have seen the democratic light or have put away political ambitions.

A Frenchman will also point out that the same thing is true of Italy, Belgium, Holland and Rumania. What was liberation for some was defeat and exile for others.

Allied Intervention.

Extreme Leftist elements accuse the British of having fired the first shots in the open war to protect and install in power the Continental property-owner class, which either fled overseas before the arrival of the Nazis or who stayed and, at best, played a passive collaborationist role to save their investments.

The Leftists allege that the big property-owners who stayed, with a few exceptions, failed completely to identify themselves with the active resistance elements. Those who fled gained control of the Governments in exile and planned a return to the Continent, after the Allied armies, with ready-to-wear administrative systems with which they aimed at re-establishment of capitalism and abortion of the political success of proletarian movements.

Whether or not these allegations are wholly or partly justified, or wholly unjustified, is beside the point.

They represent the convictions of millions of people who probably are prepared to fight for those convictions—and resist Allied intervention as stubbornly as they have resisted German occupation.

Probably the most humiliating part of the whole business is that the logic behind the Nazis' determination to resist to the last man to gain time at all costs now becomes apparent.

If German resistance lasts another six or seven months it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the solution of "the German problem" will have taken second place to the solution of a new "European problem."

Adelaide Easter Convention.

Word is to hand from Adelaide advising that the Easter Convention is to be held there by the friends over the three days, Good Friday to Easter Sunday, March 30th and 31st and April 1st.

A hearty welcome awaits all who may be able to attend these gatherings, and further information will appear in March "Peoples Paper" and may also be obtained from the secretary—Mrs. H. Bartel, 10 Winston Avenue, Clarence Gardens, Adelaide, South Australia.

Passover Memorial 1945.

The Jewish date of the anniversary of the institution of the Memorial of Christ's death falls this year on Tuesday evening, 27th of March. After sundown on the 27th March will therefore be the appropriate time to keep the Memorial of Christ's death, by all consecrated followers of the Master. "This do in remembrance of Me," were our Lord's words, and Paul adds, "Christ our passover (Lamb) is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast"—on its anniversary, and in spirit and truth throughout the Christian's whole life.

Convention News.

THE Convention arranged by the Melbourne friends and held over the four days at the Christmas season proved once again a time of real blessing and refreshing in the highest sense. It is with much thankfulness to the Lord, we feel sure, that all who attended these gatherings meditate upon the spiritual good things provided throughout these assemblies.

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It was a pleasure to welcome visiting brethren from Adelaide, Canberra, and country parts of Victoria, and these members assisted greatly in providing the feast of fat things around the Lord's table.

Each day the sessions were opened with appropriate praise and prayer to the Giver of every good thing. A series of Bible studies was conducted, the passages of Scripture considered being Eph. 4:1-6, Heb. 12:22-29 and Luke 21:29-36. As will be realised, these studies were very instructive and encouraging. For the fourth day a Question Meeting took the place of a selected passage of Scripture and this also proved a very helpful study session.

A series of eight addresses, delivered mostly by our visiting brethren, were very profitable indeed, and will no doubt be a means of much encouragement to all in attendance, for the days ahead. Some of these addresses will appear in the columns of "Peoples' Paper" from time to time, and in this way it is hoped that some of the good things from the Convention will help greater numbers in this and other lands. One address arranged particularly as a public witness was well appreciated also by some strangers who attended. The full list of subjects for the addresses is as follows:—"Wherefore Comfort One Another with These Words" (1 Thes. 4:18); "Made Perfect Through Suffering"; "The Resurrection of the Dead"; "To the Law and to the Testimony" (Isa. 8:20); "The Mercy of God" (Rom. 9:16); "Knowing the True God" (John 17:3); "Christian Constancy"; and "The Work and Ways of God".

The two sessions for praise and testimony gave opportunity for testifying to the goodness of the Lord and the faith and confidence which the brethren have in the outworking of God's plans and promises both as respects His people and the world generally. The many messages of greeting, encouragement and exhortation received from the Classes and friends in various parts of Australia were very much appreciated, and the Convention message, to go to all these friends, as also to all who love the Lord, together with the Christian love of all assembled, is contained in Heb. 12:25-28.

The closing session of the Convention came all too soon, but the Love Feast was a fitting close to this season of blessing and refreshing from the presence of the Lord. As usual the two beautiful and appropriate hymns, "Blest be the tie that binds", and "God be with you till we meet again", with the closing prayer of thankfulness and supplication for God's protection over His people, brought to conclusion this Convention held in the name and spirit of our Lord.

Go Ye Also into the Vineyard.

THE Following comments on the privileges and responsibilities of serving the Lord are passed on for the encouragement of all who wish to please Him above all else:

“On the day after Christmas a party had gone to Largs, that is a seaside suburb, and did some distributing of the Radio Cards. Also on New Year’s Day a party of five of us again went to the same locality and spent the day distributing. We got to our territory about 10 a.m. and worked till about midday, then after refreshment started in again and worked till about 3.30 p.m. or little more. The weather was pleasant and we all thoroughly enjoyed the outing and felt glad to have the privilege of witnessing in this way to the Lord’s coming Kingdom. We trust that some hearts may have received a blessing by the little witness. We know that there were five who got a blessing from the service anyway, and they were ourselves. Last Saturday afternoon was our monthly distribution again and six friends were able to serve the truth again in the distribution of the Cards. We hope and pray for the Lord’s blessing on these efforts.

I was able to go out again last Monday afternoon.

“The little Card contains a very fine message; the ‘Do You Knows’ are a splendid little witness and interested folk can hear the Radio Talks and avail themselves of the offered free literature. We hope it may be possible to continue this service if it is the Lord’s will. In harmony with our Lord’s direction we are praying the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest. (Matt. 9:37, 38; John 3:35-38.)

“This service offers privileges to all the Lord’s people. Some can use their talents in arranging the Dialogues, some can use their voices in broadcasting the Dialogues, some can use their time in distributing the Radio Cards thus inviting the people to hear the message, still others can use their means to meet the cost of the broadcasting, advertising, etc., while those who cannot engage in any of these services can, with earnest supplications at the throne of grace, request the Lord still further to bless this service to the honor of His Name, and for the good of His people, and for the blessing of many more of those around us who have not yet heard His wonderful Plan of Salvation.

“The Psalmist’s inspired prayer in Psalm 67 may very properly be the prayer of all the Lord’s people today.. How full of significance are the expressions: ‘God be merciful to us, and bless us; and cause His face to shine upon us; That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee.’ People cannot praise God intelligently until they know something of His character and Plans, and it is the privilege of His true church to make these known to all who have ears to hear and hearts that are willing to obey. While we know full well that the principal work of actually enlightening the world will take place when the church is glorified, yet we, as footstep followers of Christ, need to be on guard against a tendency to minimize the work of witnessing to the truth which it is proper that we should do at the present time. Some of the Lord’s dear people seem to be in need of a reminder that the reason the Lord gave us the truth was first of all that we should be sanctified by it, and secondly that we should be active in letting it shine out so that others may also be blessed by it. Let us not be found hiding our light under a bushel of worldly cares or business activities which might be avoided. The consecrated heart, the sacrificing priest, will be careful to ‘touch lightly the things of this earth’ ever remembering the Master’s words ‘Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness.

“Christ taught His disciples to pray, ‘Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.’ Can we sincerely pray thus and yet not feel within our hearts an earnest longing to ‘Tell the whole world the blessed tidings’ of the coming Kingdom which we know to be so near? As ambassadors of Christ, and heralds of His Kingdom, do we not feel impelled by the gracious spirit of our Lord and Head to go forth in His blessed Name and strength to our neighbours near and far, proclaiming both with our lips and by the printed page, the message of God’s grace in Christ which has so comforted and blessed our own heads and hearts? ‘He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal.’ “

Correspondence.

Victoria.

My Dear Christian Brothers—I received your letter and was very pleased to hear from you; I thank you for your paper you sent along to me dealing with “When Christ is King” and find it a great comforting message. I thank you also for papers I receive from you time and again.

I continue to hear your messages put over 3B0 every Sunday morning and enjoy them very much indeed; the only thing I regret is that they do not last longer than the 1 hour. I will be very glad to receive any further papers you may send along that would help me on my Christian journey which I find is not a path of milk and honey: it is a hard fight to declare the Gospel in the world today, but still Christ has left me His promise that He would not leave me or forsake me. I will now draw to a close wishing God’s blessing on your future broadcasts, from Christian Brother in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dear Brothers in Christ—It gives me great pleasure and comfort to listen to your discussions on the Bible on Sundays at 10 a.m. Would you kindly send me the booklet on Christ’s return. Thanking you in anticipation. I remain, yours sincerely.

Dear Sirs—Would you kindly send me a copy of this morning’s Talk: I missed the first part and it is a subject I don’t quite understand. We know Lazarus was raised from the dead but never heard any more of him. Thanking you, yours faithfully.

To Frank and Ernest—Many thanks for sending the “Paper” and reading matter which I enjoy. I would be very pleased to have it regularly: I am enclosing postal note to help the good work along. Wishing you all God’s blessing for the New Year. Yours faithfully.

Dear Friends—Would you please send a copy of your Talk “The Three Ways” also the booklet you advertised last Sunday. I was unable to get down for the Christmas services but hope to be down in the next two or three weeks; it is very difficult to get away at this time of the year.

Wishing you God’s richest blessings in the New Year. Yours sincerely.

Sirs—I shall be pleased to receive from you the literature sponsored by the Berean Bible Institute, as I should like to know the full meaning of the prophecies under the title. “Do You Know ?” I am deeply interested in this kind of knowledge. Sincerely yours.

South Australia.

Dear Frank and Ernest—We have been listening to your Talks for a couple of years now and we have been very interested in them and we would not miss them for anything.

We would like your Talks for the last six weeks if possible, but if not, we would like last Sunday’s and all of your following Talks, if you could possibly send them to us as we are Christians. I am your friend.

To Frank and Ernest, Dear Sirs—Having heard your Talk today, I found it very interesting and helpful and would like very much to have a copy of it to pass the same thoughts on to my S. School Class (young ladies) . If you would send me one, I would be very pleased. Thanking you in anticipation. Yours sincerely.

N. S. Wales.

Frank and Ernest, Dear Friends—I had forgotten that my subscription to the “Peoples Paper” had run out; I am enclosing a postal note to cover the year’s subscription and the balance to go to the Radio Fund.

I see by your latest balance sheet that the credit balance is not great, but we know that if it is God’s wish that the message should go out, He will make the way, and I feel that He will.

I would like to say “thank you” for the help and comfort there is in the last issue of the “P.P.” especially the article “Patience and Comfort of the Scriptures.” I always find it, good reading. Wishing you both God’s blessing for yourselves and your work. Kindest regards.

To Frank and Ernest, Gentlemen—Would you kindly send me your literature bearing on your Sunday morning Talks and as I have two members of my household Sunday School teachers and we have heard your Sunday Talks for some time back, we are all interested.

Wishing you both God's blessing, and a brighter New Year. I remain, faithfully yours.

Western Australia.

To Frank and Ernest, Gentlemen—Having listened to your most interesting conversation over the air today I wish to take advantage of your generous offer and would thank you to forward to me a copy of your book entitled "Hope Beyond the Grave."

There are many quotations in the Bible re "Hell-fire" etc., which I have never been able to get a satisfactory understanding of, as for instance Matt. 13:35-42 and another, Matt. 25:41-46 and Luke 16:23 and 2 Pet. 2:4 and particularly Rev. 14:8-10. However, perhaps on reading your little book I may be given light on these matters. Thank you for your Talk; I enjoyed it very much. Yours in His service.

Another friend writes—"I am very pleased with the book 'God's Plan in Brief.' It gives me great joy and seems to proclaim God's great love. I would like to have attended the lectures very much but am not able to travel. . . Thanking you for your kind helpfulness and may God bless you and your work."