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“ All Things Are Yours ”

(1 Cor. 3:21-23.)

(Convention Address)

MANKIND is always grasping after something—never satisfied. Even those who from a worldly standpoint reach the highest attainments are rarely satisfied. A prominent successful business man in England died during the year; he was a noted titled politician and statesman. One of his public utterances when addressing a public function, as reported by the press, said that although to all appearances he looked in reasonable health, he felt that he would pass away before very long, and somewhere, somehow, he did not know where, or how, exactly, he would face life anew, and would be starting another apprenticeship. Actually, this man died a few short weeks later. From the report the religious beliefs, if any, of this man, could not be ascertained, but he seemed to conclude that he would live *again*, and that the present life's attainments would not avail much in the next life; he felt convinced he would be starting another apprenticeship. One's heart warms toward such a great man of the world, humble enough to make such a candid confession. How many like him have wealth, title, esteem in this life, only to find at its close the hollowness of it all.

We are extremely glad to know that this man will live again through a resurrection of the dead, and we hope he makes good in the apprenticeship of the new world which will be right back here upon earth, under the Millennial reign of Christ.

To viewers from this world's standpoint such are successful men; they have had the world at their feet; all things were theirs. But it was vanity and availed little.

How different is the life of a good Christian like the Apostle Paul, who, led by the holy spirit of God, had a right sense of values, and at his journey's end had no thought of a further apprenticeship, but the consummating of the one great apprenticeship he had served here below. “I have finished my course,”—he was about to take his degrees,—”henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness (glory).” (2 Tim. 4:7, 8.) All things truly his, and to abide forever.

It was this apostle who wrote to the Corinthian church saying, “Therefore let no man glory in men, for all things are yours.” How truly do all things really worth while belong to the Christian. We should count our blessings and carefully note what God has done for us, what He is doing for us now, and what He has promised to do for us in the future. When the apostle wrote, “Let no man glory in men,” it was somewhat general for both Jews and Greeks to boast themselves of certain leaders ; and the same kind of thing was manifesting itself in the Christian church, and Paul is here rebuking it. (Read 1 Cor. 3:4-7, then continue to verse 21 of our text.)

Yes, all things are yours, whether Paul, Apollos or Cephas. He is showing that it does not matter who the preacher or teacher is: there should be no partiality. The services of each teacher were for the whole church—all are yours, to benefit thereby. Is Christ divided? Did any of the apostles preach to cause division among true Christians? It is just as wrong in our day to line up behind certain leaders and discard the ministries of others. We could apply the lesson to the ministry of Christian journals. Since there is no general, vital difference of doctrine put forward by the “Peoples Paper” in our own land, the “Dawn” and “Herald” in America, and the “Bible Study Monthly” in England, we should not widely differentiate between them. All are yours to profit thereby ; we should thank God that we have access to such publications. Some do not seem to appreciate the things that are theirs for the taking.

“Or the world, or life.” These are the next things listed by the apostle as being yours. Yes, even this life, and the world

of the present time is ours. Do we appreciate the good things we enjoy—health, homes, food, clothing? God’s wonderful provision for mankind even now is bountiful in the arrangement of the seasons, rain from heaven and beautiful sunshine. Do we appreciate the beauties of nature? But you say, I have many sorrows. Who has not? How do even the sorrows influence us? Has not God promised to work all things together for good to those that love Him? What Christian who has gone some distance along the way can say that God does not keep His promise? Do not the dark days and the clouds ultimately shed many blessings upon our heads? Verily all things are yours (ours), to profit thereby. Life is even now ours to live to the full; not in an endless round of gaiety, sport, night club activities, etc., which the worldly call “enjoying life”; but life to us is a wonderful gift and blessing, a means of rejoicing in serving the Lord and His truth, even in the daily round of common tasks. (See 1 Tim. 6:6-8.)

Not for ease or worldly pleasure,
Not for fame my prayer shall be,
Gladly would I toil and suffer,
Only let me walk with Thee.
Close to Thee. . . . All along my pilgrim journey,
Saviour let me walk with Thee.

“Or death.” Death is one of the “all things” that is ours. It may not be easy to determine truly what was in the apostle’s mind here, but it would seem to be used in conjunction with the immediate foregoing life; or life or death, BOTH are yours. 1 Thes. 5:9, 10 is another Scripture bearing out this thought. (Read). Those who are privileged to be “in Christ” rejoice in Him now in the present life ; the Apostle intimates that we often live below our privileges if we do not rejoice as Christians. “Rejoice in the Lord, and again I say, rejoice.” But even if we die and sleep the sleep of death, it is in sure and certain hope that we will live again, live with Him. Death, the greatest of all calamities to mankind has surrendered its sting to the Christian. Only true believers in Christ can yet say, “O death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?” (1 Cor. 15:55.) Yes, and as 2 Tim. 1:10 tells us, our Saviour Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light—made them available. If we are truly the Lord’s it does not matter whether we “wake or sleep” we will live with Him. “Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell (hades) will not prevail against it.”

Further, not for ourselves only do we rejoice in the deliverance from death. We are to be associated with Christ in delivering all mankind from its woe. The Psalmist assures us that God has noted the plight of ALL the prisoners of death. (See Psa. 102:19, 20.) So we hear the voice from John’s Gospel, “Marvel not at this, for ALL that are in their graves shall come forth. . . .” The assurance of this victory over death and the grave is one of the “ALL” things that is ours ; the deliverance is not for ourselves alone, but for all mankind in due time. Is it not something to rejoice over?

“Or things present or things to come.” All things that have to do with life about us now, as well as what shall come to us in the future; all tend and shall tend to promote our highest welfare, whether they be trials, hardships or prosperity; that is, of course, if we wait continually upon the Lord. All things in our possession are to be enjoyed, both present and future; they are ours—to prove our stewardship. Come trial or sorrow in the execution of that stewardship we can lose nothing if we keep close to the Lord. (Read Rom. 8:38, 39, emphasizing “nor things present nor things to come”). Everything necessary is ours ; we lack nothing. Godliness with contentment is great gain.

“And ye are Christ’s.” Christ is the only Head or leader whom the true Christian acknowledges. Those of whom it can truly be said that they are Christ’s can never be split apart by warring factions. No one can exclude another from belonging to Christ. Is Christ divided? It is said of the Apostle John that when a very old man he had to be carried to the assemblies of the brethren, being too feeble to walk. He was so weak that he could utter only the shortest of sentences at a time, and was heard often to say just, “little children, love one another.” Queried as to why he so often said this, he replied, “because it is the Master’s command, and if we do that it is sufficient.” And what a hope lies before this select company. (See Gal. 3:29.) Heirs of the promised kingdom that is to bring blessing to all mankind during the times of restitution spoken by ALL God’s holy prophets.

“And Christ is God’s.” Can we take in the magnitude of this thought? We are Christ’s and Christ is GOD’S,—we become then of the very family of God. Some verses in John’s Gospel show this relationship between God and Christ and ourselves. (See John 17:8-10, 22, 23.) How foolish, indeed, to glory in men when such wonderful things are ours.

No wonder when some came bowing to Peter he said, “Stand up on thy feet, for I also am a man.” Who is Paul, who is Apollos, who is Peter, who is Luther, who is Wesley, who is Mr. Barnes, who is Pastor Russell? All are only ministers who assisted us to believe. It is no fault of these men that sectarian bondage exists. They helped to make the truth clearer in their time; it was those who followed after who built the shackles of sectarianism round their names. Why should we glory in men? We can appreciate the assistance we have received from one and another. Some have sown and some have watered, helping to make the truth more luminous for us ; but it is God and our Saviour who have

brought us into the “heavenly places” wherein we rejoice.

What a heritage we possess.
O, the rich depths of love divine,
Of grace a boundless store;
Dear Saviour, since I'm owned as Thine,
I cannot wish for more.

Zion Heard—and was Glad.

BUT in the midst of all this trouble and tumult in the world, what is the attitude of the Lord's truly consecrated and faithful people? Are they, too, in fear? As the judgments of the Lord fall heavily upon the wayward and disobedient so that the whole earth reels and staggers as a drunken man (Psalms 107:27), are the saints in dismay and distress?

Ah, no; for it is written, “Zion heard, and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced, because of Thy judgments,

O Lord.” It is the “sinners in Zion” that are “afraid.” Psalms 91 and 46 show why the saints rejoice and are restful of heart while others weep and lament. It is because they “dwell in the secret place of the Most High (represented by the Holy of the typical Tabernacle), and abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (as the typical Tabernacle was covered by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night). It is because God is their “Refuge and Strength.” “The secret of the Lord is with them that reverence Him and He will show them His Covenant.” Psalm 25:14.

These dwellers in the secret place of the Most High are provided in these perilous times with a clear knowledge of the Divine Plan, with its times and seasons, which enables them to see both the necessity for the present method of Divine discipline upon the world and also the peaceable fruits of righteousness which shall result therefrom. In the midst of the storm and battle of this great Day of the Lord, they hear the commanding voice of the Lord of Armies, and their hearts rejoice ; for they have full confidence in His ability to bring order out of all the confusion. They realise that in the judgment of this day it is the Lord that speaks from Heaven—from the high place of authority and control; therefore they give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness (Psalm 30:4)—of His Justice, Wisdom, Love and Power, which ensure His doing all things well.

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While it is our intention that these columns be used for teachings strictly in accord with the Lord's Word, we cannot accept responsibility for every expression used, either in the correspondence or in the sermons reported.

The Institute 's Work

AS another year's work for the Berean Bible Institute has been concluded it is with thankfulness to the Lord for all His blessings in connection with the efforts that a brief review is presented covering the past year to the close of April. It has been esteemed a great privilege to have the opportunity to serve the Lord's cause in co-operation with our brethren throughout Australia and overseas again over the past twelve months.

The pattern for the work each year is of a similar nature. Most of our readers realise that our Institute here in Melbourne is conducted mainly as a centre for correspondence and the supplying of literature for the encouragement and progress of our brethren in the knowledge of the truths of God's Word. Also reading matter is provided which will guide and instruct the earnest truth seeker to appreciate the Lord's great plan of salvation.

Our bi-monthly periodical "Peoples Paper" provides a regular contact with our brethren throughout this land and in some overseas countries. There has been encouragement again in hearing of the appreciation of the contents of the "Paper" from various quarters, and the opportunity is taken to express thanks and appreciation for the contributed messages from various brethren which have appeared in our journal.

Though printing costs continue to increase, the subscriptions to the "Peoples Paper" are covering most of the publishing expenses. There is some deficiency, however, being met by the General Tract Fund, but as mentioned on previous occasions, the "Paper" is supplied free to many interested friends to encourage their interest, and so any expenses covered by the General Tract Fund in connection with the "Peoples Paper" is considered well used in the service of the Lord. Some of our friends in Melbourne have continued their good assistance with the proof reading and other work with the "P. Paper" and their service in this way is much appreciated, as unto the Lord. Readers who can use extra copies of the "Paper" to good advantage are gladly supplied, while others who forward subscriptions for their friends are also assisting considerably.

Subscriptions are also received for larger truth periodicals ; namely, the "Dawn" and "Herald" published in U.S.A., and the "Bible Study Monthly" published in England; these subscriptions are gladly transmitted for the benefit of brethren desiring this service. Also truth literature supplied mainly from U.S.A., is made available to our friends generally, in addition to our own supply of literature. Tracts are also supplied from the General Tract Fund for distribution where good may be done. Consolation Cards for the bereaved are provided for those able to make appropriate use of them. Used stamps have also been received to assist the work, and one Sister in particular has spent much time in preparing the stamps for sale, which is greatly appreciated. Attention is drawn to an announcement about used stamps in this issue of the "Paper."

As a witness to the public, lectures have been conducted from time to time in co-operation with the Melbourne Class, and some new friends have appreciated the messages, and our brethren find the presentations on the "Plan of God" encouraging also. The radio is used to announce the invitations to the public, as well as advertising through the press and by hand slips.

Throughout the year the Frank and Ernest broadcasts have continued week by week through 3GL Geelong and a steady response has been received from interested listeners over a fairly wide area. It is well known that many receive help and encouragement from these short programmes over the air, and we are glad that the Lord will use His message of truth and bless all true hearts to further progress as He sees good. Friends within hearing range of 3GL are especially invited to make these broadcasts known in their localities to the best of their ability. They can be announced as truly undenominational to encourage people to listen.

The balance sheets below reveal the financial position of the General Tract Fund and the Radio Fund. By the Lord's overruling providence the voluntary contributions of our friends generally have enabled the work to continue steadily as in past years, and the sacrifices made of the good things of the present time to assist the work in this way is encouraging indeed and greatly appreciated, as unto the Lord Himself. Entering upon another year's service we continue to look to the Lord and seek His guidance and blessing upon all the efforts to honor His name and cause. The prayers of our brethren are also requested that all may be done in humble and faithful service in the days before us.

World conditions continue to fulfil prophecy in the "distress of nations with perplexity, "but how glad we are to know that God's timetable of events is working out His good pleasure and will ultimately bring about the establishment of Christ's Kingdom, to His praise. May all our dear friends realise the Lord's loving care and blessing as they continue to rejoice in His truths and receive of His spirit in all the days ahead. "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." "The Lord is my light and my salvation. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart ; wait, I say, on the Lord."

GENERAL TRACT FUND. To Credit Balance 1/5/64 To Sale of Used Stamps To Donations £791 15 2

By Free Tracts & Deficiency "Peoples Paper" £53 13 3 By Hall Rents, Advertising Circulars, etc. 38 15 0

By General Expenses (Office, etc.)..... 67 16 5

By Towards Personal & House Expenses 395 0 0 By Postage 72 13 0

By Travel & Sundries 98 15 0

By Credit Balance 1/5/65 65 2 6

£791 15 2

RADIO FUND.

To Credit Balance 1/5/64 £45 7 6

To Donations 278 11 3

£323 18 9

By Radio Station 3GL Geelong £260 0 0

By Printing Dialogues 4 17 6

By Travel & Sundries 13 2 6

By Bank Charges 2 10 0

By Credit Balance 1/5/65 43 8 9

£323 18 9

USED STAMPS

Would all our friends who have been kindly supplying us with used stamps please note that all the series of the 5d., Queen Elizabeth stamps are now unsaleable, so it is not worth working on these in preparation for sale. All other varieties can still be sold, usually in lots of 100, or less quantity for the larger denominations.

A very good Oxford Bible, with References, India paper, thumb index, Brevier clear type, Persian Morocco binding, is now available at 80/-. Same Bible with Concordance and Subject Index at 90/-.

Revised Standard Version Bible.-1952. Copies of these Revised Bibles are available in strong paperback binding for 15/6 post paid. These Bibles are very useful for comparison in Bible study.

Convention News

“Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation.”—Psa. 111:1.

THE Easter Convention at Adelaide, by the Lord’s grace, was a very blessed and helpful season of spiritual fellowship. The Lord’s blessing was bestowed richly upon the gatherings of His people in His name. Expressions of praise and thanksgiving to God were heard on every hand, testifying to the realisation of God’s blessings and loving care over His people as they seek His grace to assist them to walk the narrow way of self-denial in the footsteps of the Master.

It was a pleasure to welcome such a large number of visiting brethren from the Melbourne and Geelong Classes ; also a brother from New Zealand and three sisters who had travelled from far away in Queensland to be present at the Convention.

It is very encouraging to see the faith and loving zeal of the various members as they seek by word and act to serve one another in loving Christ-like manner. It is our sincere prayer that the many good lessons and helpful exhortations from the Lord’s Word may sink deeply into our hearts, and long remain with us, assisting each one to become more fully and richly developed in all the graces of the Christ-like character, by being more completely filled with the holy spirit of the truth, the spirit of God. This is the main objective in all our endeavours and exercises as the Apostle Paul reminded Timothy. (See 1 Tim. 1:5.)

Much help and blessing was derived from the three Bible Studies which occupied our thoughts and meditations during three of the Convention days. The portions of Scripture chosen for the studies were John 15:7-14; Micah 4:1- 7 ; and Romans 8:19-23.

The topics of the addresses given by various brethren were—”Three Negatives of Love”; “The Necessity of Prayer”; “The Vine and the Branches”; “The Friendship that is Begotten from Above”; “Thoughts on the Christian Walk”; “Keep My Commandments”; “The Lamb of God”; “Spiritual Fitness”; “Some Thoughts on Chronology”; “Jesus Christ, Foundation of Our Faith”; “The Basis of Our Hope” ; “Some Thoughts on 2 Cor. 5:1-6”; “Is the Lord My Shepherd, and the Shepherd My Lord ?” “Christ in You, the Hope of Glory”; and “Judge Not, That ye be not Judged.”

The Praise and Testimony Meetings, and the singing session, “Hymns we like and why,” gave opportunity for all to tell of the goodness and mercy of God experienced along the way ; and to offer to the Lord the sacrifice of praise—”the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

Messages of Christian love and greetings were received from various Classes and brethren, and to those who thus kindly remembered us, as also to all the Lord’s dear people everywhere, the Christian love of the brethren in Convention is sent, together with the words of our Lord found in John 15:7-10. The Convention closed with the Love Feast, and singing the lovely hymns “Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love,” and “God be with you till we meet again,” and the final prayer of thanksgiving to God for the special blessings and privileges received. “How excellent is thy loving-kindness O God! . . . with Thee is the fountain of life ; in Thy light shall we see light. O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee, and Thy righteousness to the upright in heart.” (Psa. 36:7-10.)

Memorial Observances

MELBOURNE

THE Memorial of our Saviour's death was gladly observed by the Melbourne brethren with solemn and yet joyous and thankful hearts; with solemnity in realising the cruel death of the cross which our Lord so bravely endured as the "Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world." Knowing it was the Father's will for Him to "taste death for every man," it was then "for the joy set before him that he endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." How thankful we are to our Heavenly Father and our Lord Jesus for His great condescension to pay the sacrifice for our sins. "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." (2 Cor. 8:9.)

Previous Bible studies on the great sacrifice of Christ as outlined by the prophet Isaiah, chapter 53, impressed the graciousness of our Lord's willingness to endure the "contradiction of sinners against himself," as He was "despised and rejected of men ; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." It was realised that His sacrifice embraced the whole 34 years of His ministry—from Jordan to Calvary He "poured out his soul unto death." We praise God, however, that our Lord shall yet "see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied,"—yes, indeed, fully satisfied when His Bride is with Him, having been fully redeemed from the world, and later all the willing and obedient of mankind are blessed with lasting life when paradise is restored throughout the earth.

During our service prayers of thankfulness and petition were offered to God on behalf of all the Lord's dear people in every place who love to "keep the feast", including some isolated members, and others hindered by physical weaknesses from joining the gathering personally. Suitable hymns were sung, and appropriate Bible readings from the Gospels were meditated upon, and an address impressed the great privilege we enjoy to be invited to celebrate our Lord's Memorial, thus confirming our consecration vows to walk in the steps of Christ's sacrifice, that by His grace we may also reign with Him. Asking God's blessing upon the unleavened bread and wine, the brethren partook with full and grateful hearts uplifted to our Heavenly Father in thankfulness for the special Gift of Christ, our Lord and Head.

Geelong

Once again we were privileged to meet in this city to sincerely and quietly "do this in remembrance of Me." Very helpful pre-studies were taken in our regular Bible Class, the passage chosen being Matt. 26:17-30. Several brethren participated during the service with Bible readings and an address and the singing of hymns prior to the observance in the taking of the emblems. It was fully realised that the emblems represented our Lord's sufferings and sacrifice which were instrumental in redeeming us, and affording us the privilege of becoming "able ministers of the new covenant"

(2 Cor. 3:6), in preparation for the blessing of mankind when that covenant is operative in the Millennial Age. Whilst it is a "little flock" that appreciates more deeply the significance of this Memorial, the whole household of faith surely rejoices in the altogether lovely One.

Adelaide

It was with thankful hearts that the Adelaide Class met to keep the Memorial of our Saviour's death. We realise that all our hopes of life are dependent upon the ransom-sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We do praise and thank our Heavenly Father for the "unspeakable gift" of His only-begotten Son, whose sacrificial death provides the means by which we (and all mankind in due time) are redeemed from the curse of sin and death. We thank God too, for the privilege of living in this "acceptable day", during which the Lord is calling out of the world "a people for His name,"—a "little flock," to whom it is "the Father's good pleasure to give the kingdom." We thank God for helping us to see that "we are not our own," that "we are bought with a price"—the precious blood of Christ.

The Memorial Service reminds us all once again of the great love of God that prompted

Him to send His Son to rescue us from the curse of sin and death ; and of the additional privilege given to the Church "not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake," to share with Christ in His cup, His sufferings, that we may also share with Him in the grand future work of assisting "whosoever will" of all mankind back into harmony with God during the glorious kingdom age, the "times of restitution of all things."

We sang hymns of praise and thanksgiving to God appropriate to the occasion ; we also read portions of Scripture which brought to our minds the significance of the Memorial service. After prayers for God's blessing upon all present, and upon the Israel of God in every place, we partook of the emblems, asking the Lord's grace to help us to be faithful

to our consecration vows to follow the footsteps of our Saviour even unto death. Only if we “suffer with Christ” can we hope to “reign with Him” ; only if we be “dead with Him,” may we hope “to live with Him.”

Perth

We celebrated our dear Lord’s Memorial as our Lord desired of His followers, fourteen brethren partaking of the emblem. We remembered our Lord’s supreme sacrifice for us, and on behalf of the whole world. For the great joy set before Him He endured the cross, and thus He died for our sins and was raised for our justification. Gladly we accept our Lord as the “bread from heaven,” and as He taught His disciples, “Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.” (John 6:53.)

We were reminded again of our sincere consecration to the Lord; that He is not only our Saviour, but is our Forerunner, and we are invited to follow in His steps and be dead with Him. We are invited to lay down our lives with our Lord. The partaking of the emblems reminded us of our dedication to do the Father’s will and help to “fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ.” Praise God that we can be associates of Christ our Saviour.

Sydney

Although the celebrants numbered only twelve, still the occasion was blessed and one to be remembered and greatly appreciated. The brother who officiated as chairman gave a very lucid and instructive address, emphasizing the value of our Lord’s sacrificial death as the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world (John 1:29), also the privilege of the Church to share in the sufferings, followed by the blessings which would accrue. Thank God the desire of all nations shall come with the removal of the curse, following the completion of the Church’s sacrifice in the steps of Christ.

“We Have an Advocate with the Father”

(1 John 2:1.)

IN considering this important subject of the Lord’s people having an Advocate with the Father, we think of it from two main standpoints. The first is the doctrinal viewpoint, and the second the devotional viewpoint, both being very important. Indeed, we feel that the combining or balancing of both viewpoints is essential to the true development of Christian character in the pilgrim way.

Taking the doctrinal viewpoint, we find the Scriptural meaning of our Lord being an Advocate for consecrated Christians is, “One called alongside, to help.” In contrast, we find the meaning of our Lord being a Mediator is, “A middle man, a go-between.” The difference is that the Advocate stands alongside those who are in heart-harmony with the Father to make up for their deficiencies, while the Mediator will stand between mankind and God in the kingdom age, to reconcile two opposing parties.

It will be seen at once that there is a great difference in these two offices which our Lord Jesus Christ carries out to the glory of God. During the Gospel Age He is the Advocate for the Church, and in the Millennial Age He will be the Mediator between God and mankind generally.

Let us note some well-known Scriptures which help us to see the importance of Christ as the Advocate for truehearted people who yearn and long to be in harmony with God. In John 6:44 Jesus declared,—“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.” Here we see there is no go-between ; God draws to Jesus those in the right heart condition. What a privilege to be drawn of the Father to Jesus, and then by accepting Him as our personal Saviour, to make full consecration to God, and become a member of God’s house of sons!

In 1 John 3:1 we read,—“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.” In this house of sons, during this Gospel Age, we *see* the relationship between the Father and the sons expressed so beautifully in John 16:27, —“For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.” It was a direct communication, this love of God for the disciples who accepted Jesus; they realised He was the one God had sent to be their Saviour and Deliverer.

“The Father himself loveth you.” No thought of a go-between here, but rather One who stands alongside to help with His mercy and support in every time of need. All the members of Christ’s body have Him as their

Advocate, as revealed in Heb. 2:16-18, Weymouth’s translation,—“For assuredly it is not to angels that he is continually reaching a helping hand, but it is to the descendants of Abraham. And for this purpose it was necessary that in all respects he should be made to resemble his brothers, so that he might become a compassionate and faithful High Priest in things relating to God, in order to atone for the sins of the people. For inasmuch as he has himself felt the pain of temptation and trial, he is also able instantly to help those who are tempted and tried.” What a lovely thought ; as a sympathetic High Priest He is stretching forth a helping hand to those who are of the faith of Abraham! They have their dear Lord as their Advocate to stand beside them all their pilgrim way.

Heb. 2:9-11 reveals the same truth respecting this relationship between God and Christ and the additional sons of this house of God. “We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels . . . that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him (God) . . . in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” It was God’s good pleasure to make plans to bring many sons to glory, —not only the great Head, but the members of His body. “For both he that sanctifieth (Jesus) and they who are sanctified (His followers) are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren.” Yes, He is not ashamed to call His body members brethren; He is standing alongside as the great Head or chief Son of God.

The great favor of having our Lord as our Advocate with the Father is further revealed in Rom. 8:32-34,—“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” “Freely give us all things,”—all things necessary—so we are enabled to overcome with this great Advocate supplying the deficiencies of our unintentional shortcomings. Yes, He is “even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

How this gracious provision for progress in the Christian way is again impressed by the words of Rom. 5:6-10. “But God commendeth his love toward us, *in* that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. . . . For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more being reconciled,”—now we have come into God’s family, will not God look more favourably upon us than when we were enemies ? Yes, indeed. “Being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life,”—“Christ in you, the hope of glory.” The very life of Christ in us will be the

means of salvation to the full. This is a lovely, comforting thought; God will provide all things necessary, —"All things are yours, and ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's."

Then the Apostle Paul, in contrasting our High Priest with the typical high priest, declared in Heb. 7:23-25,—

"And they were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death ; but this One (Christ) because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood." Here we have an everlasting High Priest, and a lasting priesthood in which to be associated with Him. "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." What a great privilege it is to realise the dear Lord is our Advocate, standing alongside us, reaching forth His outstretched hand to the children of Abraham,—"If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Gal. 3:29.)

May we appreciate at all times the dear Lord's great assistance all along our journey; we need it day by day. He is very watchful and attentive, as indicated by the helpful reference to Him "in the midst of the seven candlesticks" (churches) in Revelation,—supervising, directing, reproving and consoling His people all this Gospel Age, for their highest welfare, in His loving office as their "Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

The brethren of the Pastoral Bible Institute in U.S.A., who publish the "Herald of Christ's Kingdom" have kindly sent us a supply of their booklets which are provided free to "Herald" subscribers who can use them to advantage. Single copies of these booklets will be gladly forwarded from this office as samples to "Herald" subscribers. Those so desiring may then order further supplies through us or direct to U.S.A. The booklets available are:

The Place of Israel in the Plan of God
The ABC of Bible Prophecy
After Death the Judgment
Parables of the Kingdom
What Say the Scriptures About Hell?

Is Israel Emerging from Hell?

Has Judgment Day Begun?

Are Wars to Cease

The Coming World Potentate

Beliefs that Matter

Elias Shall First Come

If a Man Die, Shall He Live Again?

Our Lord's Return

What is the Soul?

Why Does God Permit Evil?

Great World Changes Long Foretold

Sixteen Scripture Truths

God's Fulfilling Purpose

"Israel in History and Prophecy" is the title of a very interesting and informative 64-page booklet now in stock, priced at 1/- per copy, 1/8 post paid.

Correspondence.

Dear Frank and Ernest—I wrote to you some weeks ago and you were so kind to send me some reading matter for which I am most grateful. I am most anxious to understand God's Word . . . and want you to know I am truly interested. As we are told to “despise not prophesyings and test all prophets” I want to know everything that is to be known. So I am enclosing a cheque, being 6/- subscription to “Peoples Paper” and the rest as an offering towards your work.

I have not been able to hear “Frank and Ernest” for a few weeks. I look after some elderly ladies and have given them the privilege of hearing the message per my little portable radio, but I hope to have another radio mended soon, and shall again be a “regular.” Maranatha.

Frank and Ernest, Dear Friends—Thank you sincerely for literature and books just received ; they truly are a real blessing and enlightenment. I thoroughly enjoy every book and paper you so kindly have sent me, and feel sure in the light of the Bible that what you say is absolutely the truth.

It is only during the past two years I have been able to see the light, and having seen the light now, I want to walk in the light. It is the truth and only the truth that makes us free, and I feel sure you have the truth which 90% of Christians have not got. They just believe what has been taught them from a child, misquote the Scriptures and put their own interpretation on the Word of God. There is nowhere in the Bible which proves the things they believe and teach ; I realise that these Christians are very sincere, but they are sincerely wrong.

I have only you to thank that my eyes have been opened to see the truth, and it is the truth that God wants us to know. God does not expect us to put our own interpretation on His Word, but to be enlightened by His holy spirit which leads us into all truth. Once again thank you very sincerely.

Convention Notes

Notes on Adelaide Easter Convention are now available free from this office.

Slander, that worst of poisons, ever finds an easy entrance to ignoble minds.

—John Hervey.

FRANK & ERNEST TALKS Geelong, 3GL, 222 M. Sundays 10 a.m. ARNALL & JACKSON-PRINT