

# RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

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SYDNEY CHURCH

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Dear Brethren in Christ:

Greetings! I have GOOD NEWS for you. We plan to start sending you a weekly News Letter, setting forth a summary of the sermonette and sermon given on the Sabbath, briefly what was covered in the weekly Bible study, news about the advancement of God's Work in Australia and other news of general interest to you brethren.

There are three vitally important points of news I want to set forth at the outset of this letter which are relevant to the advancement of God's Work in Australia! First, word has just been received that TEN more radio stations are going to be added to the twenty already being utilized — soon there will be THIRTY stations utilized in Australia, over which God's message is thundered to the people in this vast continent. Yes, to this continent being watched with greedy eyes from the North! God is moving fast, there may not be many years left in which this message of WARNING and hope can be sent to a deceived people.

Secondly, we are hopeful of the establishment of monthly Bible studies in both Brisbane and Melbourne. Pray about this! If this is made possible, we will not only be able to help you scattered brethren in these much-needed Bible studies but will also be able to meet people interested in baptism once a month from these two areas — this will enable us to baptize many whom God will add to His Church and who can start attending the Bible studies as well. Later, the outgrowth of these two studies will be TWO CHURCHES with weekly Sabbath services! Let us rejoice in the prospects of such anticipated growth for God's Work in Australia! When more develops on this, you will be notified.

Thirdly, the first SPOKESMAN CLUB is to be established next Sunday, April 23rd. This is a Speech Club in which men in the Sydney Church will learn to communicate more effectively with others. With some, the fruits borne as they progress in the Spokesman Club may indicate that God has called them to have an active part in the ministry here in Australia. In the United States, there are several in the active Work of God who gained necessary experience in a Spokesman Club to qualify as an elder in God's Church. ONE requirement of an elder in God's Church is that he is "apt to teach" (I Tim.3:2) — one must be qualified to properly convey God's Truth to others if he is ever used in such a position. And, God shows we should always be qualified to properly answer the questions asked by a sincere SEEKER of the Truth (I Pet.3:15).

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Everyone who participates in the Spokesman Club will become better qualified to adhere to this command. Spokesman Clubs will be established in other cities AFTER churches have been raised up. Pray for the success of this Spokesman Club.

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Now that a summary of the sermon and sermonette will be sent each week, when possible, there will be no need for any of the brethren in the Sydney Church to send sermon notes to you scattered brethren. They should, however, still diligently organize their notes so they cannot only thoroughly learn what has been given but also have clear, understandable notes for future reference.

Sermonette: Mr. Hammer

The footwashing service in which we participated recently was given by Christ to teach us to love the brethren, remain humble and ready, at all times, to serve the brethren in any manner, regardless of how menial the task may appear. How many of us really learned the lesson? Some may not have had the right attitude when participating in the service and, thus, failed to grow in the knowledge of this vital Truth. Others who did, may have already forgotten that the lesson was to teach us the attitude of mind we should maintain throughout the entire year -- let us test ourselves to see that the lesson has been learned. Strive to maintain such an attitude throughout the year!

Sermon: Mr. Waterhouse

God is love -- Do we hunger and thirst after His nature? How often have we pondered the love of God this week to see how much love is going to be extended to mankind by God when He, through Christ, forgives man of all of the evils he has brought upon himself. Do we trust God to bring to fruition all of His promises and see the great love, mercy, patience and forgiveness of God? Do we realize God's promises, if they are fully believed, can erase all fear of what the Communists are going to do in Asia and the Pacific, what the eventual end of Space Travel is to be, what the Nazis are to do in Europe and what horrifying things mankind is to experience when pestilences, drought and bloodshed encircle this whole earth. Yes, we can commit ourselves to God, trust in His promises, lie down at night and experience SWEET SLEEP. Just how much does all this mean to you? If you see how God is going to solve all of these problems and straighten out this wicked world, you are beginning to see that GOD IS LOVE (I John 4:16); that God is perfect in His ways and never makes a mistake (Deut. 32:4), consequently, you should hunger and thirst after God's nature.

It is not easy to fully believe that God is absolutely trustworthy, perfect in His ways, cannot be improved on, does everything in the best possible manner, never tells a lie and that everything is working out for the good of those who love God. Why do doubts come to your mind, at times, and you start doubting the absolute truism of these characteristics of God? It is because you have grown up in a society filled with carnal minded, evil people whom you could never fully trust, depend on, who lied, broke promises and worked for self-advantage instead of for the good of the other person (II Tim. 3:1-5); consequently,

your mind naturally — because of the thought patterns which have been formulated as you were exposed to these various things in the past — discounts God on certain things when they appear to be different from that which you feel is right. We must learn to quit judging God according to our own minds and understanding — let God be true and every man, idea, circumstance or argument a LIE when it counters God's Truth — and just take Him for His Word and, then, we can have GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE LOVE OF GOD. To teach us to trust Him in spite of what the circumstances may be, God puts us through trials and tests out of which He will always deliver us. This is to teach us to TRUST IN GOD and not in ourselves and come to learn that God is merciful and a God of all comfort (II Cor. 1:3-10). That He will never let us suffer a trial which is too great for us to endure (I Cor. 10:13); that the Lord will always stand by us under any circumstance — if we look to and trust in Him (II Tim. 4:17-18) and that Christ has the power to keep us from falling and bring us into God's Kingdom (Jude 24). God wants to teach us that He is not a man that He should lie or go back on any of His promises (Num. 23:19).

Man wants to go into space before he is qualified, God has promised mankind will not inhabit and pollute and bring chaos to His heavens (Ps. 115:16) — we can thank God for this lest man's abominable ways infect the whole universe. However, if we trust in God and let Him work with us, He will qualify us to travel in space and wield great power His way — this can be done as nothing is too hard for God (Jer. 32:17).

God has given you and me promises that we can be partakers of His nature of LOVE (II Pet. 1:3-4) — that is so different from the ways of carnal-minded man that we should start seeing the GREAT LOVE AND PERFECTION OF GOD and strive to yield to His will at all times! Do we grasp what manner of LOVE God has bestowed on us that we should be called sons of God (I John 3:1-2). We are called to become like Christ! What is He capable of doing? Governing the whole universe (Heb. 1:2-3) and we are called to be joint-heirs with Him in eventually ruling this entire universe — but we won't be helping Him in this unless we learn to trust God in everything and suffer, when necessary, to remain obedient to Him (Rom. 8:17).

Do you constantly believe and meditate on the fact that God has a vast Government which rules perfectly this whole universe — Christ at God's right hand, twenty-four elders and four living creatures as well as multiple millions of angels carrying out His rule in a very systematic manner with absolute law and order — and this requires that millions of decisions be made every day. Or, do you just see about as far as man and your immediate surroundings? If so, these material things about you are really all you know and mean too much to you; consequently, when trials come, you are prone to go the way of least resistance in order not to lose that on which your eyes are focused instead of seeing the Great God, Christ and Their Government and put them first in all circumstances. Knowing that the trials come to teach you to rely on them and to prove you worthy of entrance into their vast Government. YOU USUALLY SEE ONLY WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE — do you really want to see the much better way of God or are you satisfied with what mankind has constructed around you?

We need to walk worthy of our calling — it is a high one (I Ths. 2:12). We are called to get training now in our families and in the church to later judge the world. Further still, to eventually have a part in ruling the Universe

under Christ (I Cor. 6:1-3). To properly do this you must come to have God's LOVE so that everything you do will be done for the good of all concerned. So, God wants us to come to understand about His very nature of LOVE. Therefore, He has had to define what true, GODLY LOVE is -- the LAW has been given for this purpose. It defines God's LOVE or how He would conduct Himself among human beings if He were here in person. But since He isn't, we are to follow the way He would live if here (Eph. 5:1) as we conduct ourselves among others and carry out the Work He has given us to do. In order that we can do this, God has to impart to us some of His very nature of LOVE which the law defines. This nature or LOVE will help us fulfill His Commandments and laws. First, we have to recognize that man's ways are wrong and God's way of love is right and surrender to obey Him with the help He will supply -- so we are to repent, accept Christ as personal savior, and be baptized. Then God will give us His Holy Spirit through which His LOVE can be imparted (Acts 2:38-39). He gives it only to those who admit His way is the only right way and have agreed to obey it (Acts 5:32). Through this power, Christ can renew our minds, helping us to follow His example in living by the perfect law of LOVE (Titus 3:3-8). Then it is that we can really start offering ourselves up to God as living sacrifices to learn of the way He wants us to live to assist in properly governing in His family (Rom. 12:1-2). Christ by living in us can start bearing the fruit of LOVE in our lives (Gal. 2:20 and 5:22). He starts pouring out God's LOVE through the channel of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5), enabling us to have God's LOVE which will help us to keep His Commandments (I John 5:3). Yes, the very LOVE required to fulfill the LAW of God (Rom. 13:10).

God put mankind on this earth to learn to live like Him but since He is not here to have personal contact with mankind, and we have been called as the firstfruits, God wants us to set an example to those still blinded which is as near as possible to how God would be living among mankind Himself. Therefore, we always are under obligation to let God's love flow through us in fulfilling God's law toward our fellowman (Rom. 13:8). For this reason, Christ spoke of the Holy Spirit as living waters flowing from us in good works toward others -- mainly done as we zealously strive to pray for and support God's Work which is reaching millions, showing them how God wants them to live, as well as our personal contact with various ones each day.

Are we aware of our need of God's LOVE each day to live a Christian life, or have we been passing over the fact that we need the LOVE OF GOD? (Luke 11:42). God is eager to give us more of His Holy Spirit if we desire to serve Him (Luke 11:9-13). We should pray that Christ will direct our hearts into the LOVE of God (II Ths. 3:5), praying that we will not only have more love but power to perform as we ought and the soundness of mind to remain stable at all times (II Tim. 1:7). We are also exhorted to let God's love abound yet more and more in knowledge and JUDGMENT (Phil. 1:9) -- that we will have proper judgment in applying God's law or principles of the Law to every circumstance. This takes practice and we do make mistakes as we strive to learn how to discern what is right or wrong according to God's law -- but we will never grow unless we are willing to step out and try to live by God's law to the best of our ability, even if we know we are going to make mistakes on occasion (Heb. 5:14). And when we make mistakes, are we to become discouraged, doubting that God will forgive you of all sin which is repented of -- NO! For God will forgive us of our sins (I John 1:9). All of them (Ps. 103:1-3). A righteous man will always repent of sins and continue striving until he has learned to

do a thing perfectly (Pro. 24:16). Just make sure you try to recognize all of your sins and repent of them -- don't try to overlook them or don't get bitter and refuse to repent of them or you won't prosper in God's way (Pro. 28:13). God wants you to recognize that sin hurts you, really desire to do better and trust in the fact that He will forgive you oftentimes (Job 33:26-30) that He realizes we are weak and have many faults to overcome, so when sins are repented of, He will remove them as far from us as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:8-14).

God's whole purpose with mankind is to circumcise his heart in order that he can really learn to obey God in every way (Deut. 30:6). Through this, He can teach us to be faithful and zealous servants of His (Joshua 22:5). We then commence to see that God is far above anything we have previously known, and thus, fully dedicate our lives to Him (Ps. 73:25-26). And meditate on God and His ways often (Ps. 63:5-6). When we do, we see how important it is to remain IN THE LOVE OF GOD and trust Christ to perfect us and qualify us for ETERNAL GLORY IN GOD'S KINGDOM (Jude 20-21).

#### CHURCH NEWS

I know all of us are so thankful God gave us the privilege to worship Him and learn more about His Great Plan of Salvation by partaking of the Passover and observing the Festival of Unleavened Bread which have just past. Not only are we looking forward to having you with us for the festivals in the future but we are also expecting many new brethren to be added to the church by then and be here to assemble with us. Let us labor in prayer that God will add many more to His Church in the future from those in Australia and other countries throughout the world. Too, let us pray that God will make possible more local churches in which many of you scattered brethren can regularly meet.

There are so many opportunities which are made available through a local church. Not only are people privileged to be fed spiritual food and fellowship each Sabbath but they also come to know the needs of various ones and extend a helping hand. Today, Sunday, a group has gathered at Mrs. Burchill's home in Blacktown to help her make ready one of the small cottages on her property for immediate occupancy. She plans to move out of her large home into a cottage and let all the flats in her present residence. The management of which will be committed to another. Let us rejoice that some of the brethren are now able to serve in this manner. Mrs. Burchill has been so zealous in serving so many of you brethren who have lived in her flats during past festivals. Now some of the brethren are able to serve her. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the whole world had such an attitude toward serving one another! Thank God we have been called to have the privilege of learning -- NOW!

#### BIBLE STUDY NEWS

Bible studies are held on Wednesday evenings with the exception of the second Wednesday of each month. Last Wednesday was the second Wednesday of April, thus no Bible study.

#### OFFICE PROCEDURE

A new policy of automatically sending any new booklet received from Headquarters in Pasadena, California to all members in Australia has been

introduced. You have just received the booklet on "Earthquakes" and any future booklet will be sent automatically, but any booklet you have failed to request in the past, will have to be requested before it is sent.

In future Church News Letters, we hope to have a great deal of personal news about various members, outings and picnics by various groups, new baptisms, etc. If you know of any personal news which might be of interest to all the brethren, be sure and send it to us -- it may be such news can be included in one of these letters.

May God help all of you as you strive to live more perfectly by His WAY OF LOVE.

Sincerely, in Christ's service,

*Gerald S. Waterhouse*

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