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DROUGHT AND RAIN

D.B. KNOX

"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

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We have been experiencing in Australia over the last two or three years a prolonged drought. It is not a new experience either for ourselves or for other countries. People in Old Testament times experienced drought and it was then very serious as life in those times was on a subsistence level. The weather is under God's control; as Jesus said "God sends the rain" and the Bible makes clear that when God withholds his normal blessings of seasonable weather it is in order to teach us the lesson that all our life depends on him and that we should not go on ignoring him.

Drought and other events which jolt our life don't happen by accident. Our loving God intends them as an occasion for our reassessing our lives, our attitudes and our objectives and turning back to him. What have we done about the drought? Has it brought us to a better mind about God and the way we are using the life he has given us?

Recently the drought has been broken, partially at least. We have had good rains and for the time being the prospect looks fair. Have we thanked God for this? Thankfulness is not very characteristic

of our lives. A small child has to be taught to say thank you; it is not so easy to teach them to think it. The same is true of us grown-ups. How often are we really thankful to one another, let alone thankful to God who is our creator and through whom all our happiness comes. Practice thankfulness, it helps our inner nature wonderfully. Thankfulness takes our thoughts off ourselves and helps us to be less self centred. Say thank you to your wife, your children, your husband, your friends and above all say thank you to God.

The recent rains are real ground for thankfulness and so is every other blessing of life. Let us learn the lesson of the drought and not go on ignoring God but take the opportunity of the needed rains to turn our faces to him and say thank you now some rain has come.

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