

A. The Importance of this Preparation. We have gone through experiences in Exodus. First the ~~marvellous~~ ^{marvelous} experience of salvation, of deliverance from the power of sin. Then the various circumstances that came one after another as Pharaoh attacked and God delivers us through the Red Sea as there is difficulty with thirst, as there is difficulty with sufficient food, and there is the various circumstances we meet and we see God's hand wonderfully leading. But then the time comes when we stop and take stock and say we must prepare for the long course ahead of us, we must be ready for it, we must make this necessary preparation. And of course all of you are in that stage now. You are making preparation here which is tremendously important for the years that ^{are} ahead of you.

I guess

Now I remember some years ago, in fact/about 30 years ago we had a student who was quite a bright chap and who did good work in most of his courses, and we came to him and we said we would like to have you teach a S. S. class. We have had a report from a certain church that they would like a man to teach a S. S. class and we believe that the experience of teaching a class would be good for you in your training in addition to the good that you could do and he said, Oh, No, My work is that of scholarly study. It is that of ^{presenting} ~~present~~ the Word of God. He said, S. S. is quite out of my area of interest. And he refused to do it. And about three years later we got a letter from this young man who was then up in Canada where he was the pastor of a church and he wrote us and he said, I would like to make some suggestions about how the seminary work could be improved. He said, Here I am with this church here which has been founded fairly recently and is growing nicely, but he said, I don't know how to go about organizing and directing the work of the S.S. I think you ought to stress this in your course, and teach people how to handle things in connection with the ~~S~~unday School. Well, I could not help but notice that it was the very man whom we had tried to persuade to take an interest in this and who felt that it had no particular relevance for him who a few years later was ^{criticising for} ~~criticising~~ us ^{for} not having given it to us. And so as the --- as you look forward to the long journey in the