

MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

....*"This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success".... Joshua 1:8 NASB*

January 23rd

**"Christ sent Me....to proclaim the Gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made void... for the word of the Cross...is the power of God"... 1 Corinthians 2:2; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18*

Since the meaning of the Cross was interpreted to Paul by the Lord Himself, we do not wonder that He was able to face the whole world with it, not even excepting "they of repute" in Jerusalem, who with all their prestige as men who had lived and walked and talked with Christ Himself, could add nothing to it, so complete and full had been the equipping of His chosen messenger by the Lord. The knowledge that God Himself was behind his message could even enable him to go into Corinth, that center of Greek intellectualism, and boldly declare that he had determined to know nothing in their midst but the gospel of the Cross - "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

Paul had studied secular learning at Tarsus, and was consequently quite able to meet the Corinthian intellectuals on their own ground. His Hebrew training in the Jewish law also equipped him to speak to the Jews, therefore every consideration from the viewpoint of men, would say that Paul was just the man to go among them and "win them" to the Gospel message. Yes, he was "just the man", but not from the academic standpoint, for he took the very opposite course to that which the wisdom of men would determine. He deliberately decides to put aside all the advantages his secular learning and position would give him, and boldly staking everything upon the message being the "power of God", proclaim a crucified Saviour, although "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" would be a message of such offense to both Jew and Greek at Corinth, that nothing but the power of God working with him, could even gain him a hearing. And why did Paul come to such a decision, so opposite to all that human wisdom would inspire?

Paul saw the "Cross" from Heaven's standpoint, for he had been taught by the Lord Himself all that he wrote to the Colossians, of the purpose, an extent of

the work on Calvary. The message itself carried its own witness. It contained in itself the power, or energy of God. It needed no additions or explanations devised by human wisdom; no compromising, or toning down to meet the intellect of men", since it was not the intellect that needed to be convicted of sin, but the conscience and will of a "fallen creation".