

# 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*

## February 28th

\* The flesh has an eye toward "temporal things", rejoices in earthly gain, is saddened by loss, is vexed by a small, injurious word, but the recreated spirit of a man looks to "eternal things", does not cling to the temporal, is not disturbed by material loss or made angry by harsh words, because it has established its pleasure and its joy in Heaven where nothing perishes.

The flesh is covetous, more gladly receives than gives, and loves what it personally owns, but love is kind and open-hearted, avoids that which is selfish, is contented with a few things and it judges it more blessed to give than to receive.

The flesh is glad to hold some "outward solace", in which the senses take delight, but the spirit of a man seeks its consolation in God alone, and finds its delight in the highest good above all things that are seen.

The flesh does everything for gain and advantage, and can do nothing freely, but hopes to secure a like return, or better, or praise and favour for benefits conferred, and is eager that its deeds, its gifts and words should be highly valued. Love however looks for nothing temporal, and asks no other reward save God Himself for wages; nor desires more of temporal necessities save simply what can serve it in its pursuit of things Eternal (the will of God).

The flesh quickly complains of want and trouble, love constantly endures all things, through a perfect obedience.

The flesh bends back everything to itself, and for itself strives and argues, but love leads all things back to God, whence they flowed in the beginning, ascribes nothing good to itself, nor arrogantly presumes, makes no contention, nor prefers its own opinion to other's, but in all feeling and understanding submits itself to the examination of God and His Word.

The flesh is eager to know hidden things, and to hear what is "new", wishes to make outward show, and to experience many things through the senses, longs to be recognized, and to do those things which cause praise and admiration to come. But love does not care to understand the new and curious, because all this has sprung from "ancient corruption", and there is nothing new or lasting on the earth. It teaches, therefore to restrain the senses, and to avoid empty complacency and show, humbly to hide what is praiseworthy and admirable, and in everything, and in all knowledge, to seek the fruit of usefulness and God's praise and honour.

*.... "But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the spirit, and the [desires of the] spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do".... Galatians 5:16-17 The Amplified Translation*