

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*

September 25th

* The common Greek word for love in use in Jesus' was "phileo", which means "human" love. It is the love of a "natural" mother for her child, the love of a "natural" husband for his wife, or the love of a "natural" brother for a brother - a "natural" sister for a sister. This was the highest type of love that man had ever "felt". There were Greek terms that differentiated between "natural" love and lusts, but there was no other word for a higher kind of love than "phileo". This common human love is the most "blessed" asset of the human (fallen man), and yet, the most dangerous. This "phileo-love" is the goddess of the divorce court. It is the high-priestess of human suffering. It is the parent of most of our tears, sorrows, and heart-agonies. It turns to jealousy and murder at the slightest pretext. It has caused more headlines in the daily papers than all other human passions. It is the underlying cause of human failure. It is purely selfish. It feeds only upon self-gratification.

Jesus brings a new kind of love, a love that seeks not its own. This in itself is so revolutionary that we, in this generation, can scarcely credit it. This new kind of love is the "real interpretation" of the heart-nature of God. Human love is the interpretation of the human; this new kind of love is the interpretation of God. This old love springs from the natural heart. This new love springs from the "recreated" heart. One is the manifestation of natural man, and the other, the manifestation of God in the "new man".

"Agapa" is tender, forbearing, full of longsuffering and kindness. It is "absolutely" unselfish, seeking only the joy and welfare of others. Human love cannot do this. You may talk glibly about it, but after all "self" is the centre around which it must ever move.

"Agapa" has a new centre. This centre is outside of itself. It is God. "Phileo" has utterly failed. We have the statement of the Scriptures that "Agapa" never fails!"

"Agapa" is God's acting through the lives of His children. There can be no "Agapa" manifestation today except through those who have become partakers of the divine nature. There is no such thing as a "synthetic" Agapa. It is the one thing that cannot be duplicated. It is the genius and badge of true Christianity. It is God's manifestation in the flesh. It is the heart of God throbbing in the human. All "religions" break down here; the best they have is "phileo", clothed perchance in new garments but the same old broken human love nonetheless!

"Agapa" is not only the law of the family, but it is also the life of the family and the joy of the family. It makes Christianity more beautiful than any of the so-called religions of the world. It makes the life of the saints the sweetest and most fragrant of all. Its prayer under persecution is "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." It breathes the fragrance of forgiveness. It is bravery clothed in humility. It is strength clothed in gentleness. It is the bond which binds the family together and makes the strong bear the burdens of the weak, the rich pay the bills of the poor, the cultured become the companion of the ignorant.

It is Christ again manifest among men. It compels a new vocabulary to express itself. It has no need of the adjectives of satire, of hatred, or of jealousy. No thorns grow on its roses, and no poison lurks in its blossoms. It is the heart of God pulsating on the lips of His children. It makes home, Heaven.

.... "Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]".... 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 The Amplified Translation