

## 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*

### November 18th

\* ....*"That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, becoming conformed unto His death".... Philippians 3:10*

Once more we meet with the words "His death", and this time in the letter of Paul to his beloved Philippians. The epistle was written some six years after the letter to the Galatians, when Paul so exultingly cries, "I have been crucified with Christ". Yet here we find him speaking of an assimilation with, or conformity to, the death of Christ, as the condition of knowing in greater power the efficacy of Christ's resurrection. In all the Scriptures we can find no clearer evidence of the continuity of the Cross in Christian life. Paul had clearly and unmistakably known the fullness of the Holy Ghost; he had been commissioned - and given his message of the Cross - by direct revelation of Christ Himself; he had plainly preached deliverance from the bondage of sin through the Cross; and in his letter to the Christians at Rome, explained the identity of the believer with the Lord in His death, and the mighty effectual working of the Spirit of life in Christ to make the believer free from the law of sin and death. Yet - with all this behind him as a message sealed by the power of the Holy Ghost, and personally experienced in his own life, we still have the apostle Paul seeking to know more of "His death". A manifestly deeper stratum of experience is revealed in Paul's words, and they clearly show that fuller maturity in the spiritual life means deeper fellowship with the sufferings of Christ, for the climax of the risen life gravitates, strange to say, back to the Cross. The apostle Paul therefore presses on toward the prize of the upward calling of God in Christ Jesus, by eagerly desiring to be made conformable unto the death of his Lord, since he knew that to "suffer with Him" is also to be "glorified together with Him".