

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

**"If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.".... Matthew 16:24*

Let him deny himself! Not deny pleasant things to himself; nor even deny the sins of himself, but deny himself, and "all" that is bound up in himself. Himself as the central source, or cause of action: himself as the central object of all things which come to him from without! Himself! Any other word would have narrowed the Lord's meaning of the Cross, for it covers the whole of the deliverance of Calvary, as afterwards revealed by the Risen Lord to the apostle Paul. The crucial message of Calvary to man is salvation from "himself"! If he will take for himself the Cross and, accepting the spirit of the Cross as manifested in the Christ who died for him, and deny - or renounce - himself as crucified on the Cross with his Lord, he will in so doing be delivered from the bondage of his sins, the terror of the Law, and the spirit of the world, as well as the power of the Devil. O blessed gospel of Calvary! How simple, how deep, how effective, how wise, for "himself" is the centre and core of all the trouble, rebellion, selfishness, pride and sin! Let a man look at himself as nailed to the Cross; day by day deny - or refuse to know - himself, and calmly, quietly, take the path of the Cross, and he will follow the Lamb not only to Calvary, but right to the center of Heaven, and share His Throne.

....*"I have been crucified with Christ [past tense]; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me".... Galatians 2:20 NASB*