

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*

May 12th

THE REALITY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS VS. SIN-CONSCIOUSNESS

[part 2 of 3]

* He declares,

Rom. 8:1 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus."

When does this become ours ? We hear nothing but condemnation preached. The ministry make no distinction between saint and sinner. When does Rom. 5:1 become a reality? "Being therefore declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

The ministers do not preach peace in the present. It is always in the future. When are we to find this glorious thing called Peace? When is Jesus "made unto us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption"? Is that to come to us at death, or is it a fact for us now? "Him who knew no sin God made to be sin on our behalf ; that we might become the righteousness of God in him."

We know the first part is true. But is the last part true? Are we to become Righteous in the present life, or are we to become Righteous after death? Is this Righteousness simply "reckoned" to us, or do we become Righteous in Him? Is this Redemption metaphysical or is it a reality? Is Jude 24 to be depended upon? "Now unto him that is able to guard you from stumbling, and to set you before the presence of his glory without blemish in exceeding joy."

Is that presence, of which He speaks here, before which we are to be set with exceeding joy - is that after death or is it now? It seems very clear to me that we

live in His presence now, that we walk in His presence now. If He cannot present us "now" before His presence with exceeding joy, He certainly cannot present us before the presence of the Father after death with exceeding joy.

If it requires death to cleanse us from sin, we are left in an unhappy dilemma.

Death is of the Devil. It would indicate that God in His Redemption was unable to give us victory, that He needed the Devil to complete His redemptive work. I believe that what the Scripture says about us is absolutely true, that God Himself is now our very Righteousness, and that we are the Righteousness of God in Him. I am convinced that we are partakers of the Divine Nature. There is no condemnation to us who "walk in the light as He is in the light."

The whole teaching of the modern church in regard to separation from the world is vague and illusive. One branch of the church has taught that after we are Born Again we still have the "fallen nature" in us. That is the sin nature that came into Adam at the Fall. What does this mean? This Scripture will explain it. John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil." It is Satan's nature. Satan has imparted to man his own nature. They acknowledge the fact that God has provided a New Birth but that His New Birth is a flat failure. The only thing He can do is to give us Eternal Life and forgive us. He cannot take the old nature out of us. The whole thing is absurd. It is not true. It is not the Word. 2 Cor. 5:17,

"Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new.

But all these things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ."

A man cannot be in Christ and have the Devil's nature in him. He is either in the family of God or in the family of Satan. I John 3:10, "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil." There can be no real development of faith, no strong, victorious Christian life with this mixed conception. We are either New Creations or we are not. We have either passed out of death into life, or we have not. When he says, "Sin shall not lord it over you", he means exactly what he says. If you live a life of weakness and defeat, it is because you do not know what you are in Christ.