

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

June 1st

IDENTIFICATION

[part 9 of 15]

Four Divine Attributes Seen In Hell

* Then we come to the most remarkable part of the suffering of Christ. He cried, "Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? Shall they that are deceased arise and praise thee?" Down there in that awful place, God showed His wonders to the dead.

HIS POWER WAS DISPLAYED

He let them see the awfulness of Sin, and the absolute justice of God.

HIS LOVE WAS DISPLAYED

More than that, He showed the loving kindness of God. He said, "Shall thy loving kindness be shown in the grave?"

HIS ETERNAL FAITHFULNESS DISPLAYED

"Or thy faithfulness in Destruction? Shall thy wonders be known in the dark?"

HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS DISPLAYED

"And thy righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?" They saw Jesus, who had been made sin with our sin, made as Righteous as He was before He was made sin. In seeing Him made Righteous, Satan witnessed the fact that Righteousness was made possible for the human in the New Creation.

Christ was made alive right there in the realm of death. He was called "the firstborn out of death." God said to Him, "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee." The hosts of Hell saw Him born out of death. They witnessed the triumph of God, and the glory of our matchless Christ.

Wasn't it good of Him to give us this graphic picture not only of His death and suffering, but of His triumph and glory? Throughout Eternity, in the archives of the Supreme Court of the Universe, there will be records of the Son's visit to Hell, of Satan's defeat, and of man's legal Redemption.

They saw Him put off from Himself the principalities and the powers. They saw Him paralyze the death-dealing ability of Satan. They saw Him conquer the hosts of the Black Leader. They saw Him strip Satan of the authority and dominion of which he had robbed Adam in the Garden. They saw Him arise from the dead, a victor. They knew it was the victory of the New Creation.

They saw us made alive with Him, Justified with Him, Raised with Him, made victors with Him. Revelation 1:17-18 was His song of victory. "I am the first and the last, and the Living one: and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys 'of death and of Hades."