

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 11th

RIGHT AND WRONG CONFESSIONS

[part 1 of 8]

* Few Christians have recognized the place that confession holds in the scheme of things. Whenever the word confession is used, we instinctively think of confessing sin, weakness, and failure. That is the negative side of this question.

Christianity is called "the Great Confession." Confessing is affirming something that we believe. It is testifying of something that we know. It is witnessing for a truth that we have embraced. Confession holds a very large place in Christianity.

Jesus planned that this great Life and Love should be given to the world through testimony, that is, through the confession of our lips. Testifiers and witnesses and confessors have been the great leaders in the revolutionary life that Jesus gave to the world. The major problem that we face, then, is to know what we are to confess.

Our confession centers around several things: first, what God in Christ has wrought for us; second, what God through the Word and the Spirit has wrought in us; third, what we are to the Father in Christ; and last of all, what God can do through us, or what the Word will do through our lips.

You cannot confess or witness about things you do not know. It is what you have seen and heard that counts in the court room. It is what you know personally about Jesus Christ and about what you are in Christ that counts. How few of us dare to confess to the world what the Word declares that we are in Christ! Take this Scripture, for instance: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17). What a revolutionary thing it would be for the

church to make a confession like that! They are not just forgiven sinners—not poor, weak, staggering, sinning church members. They are new creations, created in Christ Jesus with the life of God, the nature of God, and the ability of God in them.