

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 13th

THE SOULICAL AND THE SPIRITUAL

[part 1 of 6]

**"But the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly [meaningless nonsense] to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated. But the spiritual man tries all things [he examines, investigates, inquires into, questions, and discerns all things], yet is himself to be put on trial and judged by no one [he can read the meaning of everything, but no one can properly discern or appraise or get an insight into him]. For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart. [Isa 40:13]*

HOWEVER, BRETHREN, I could not talk to you as to spiritual [men], but as to nonspiritual [men of the flesh, in whom the carnal nature predominates], as to mere infants [in the new life] in Christ [unable to talk yet!] I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not yet strong enough [to be ready for it]; but even yet you are not strong enough [to be ready for it], For you are still [unspiritual, having the nature] of the flesh [under the control of ordinary impulses]. For as long as [there are] envying and jealousy and wrangling and factions among you, are you not unspiritual and of the flesh, behaving yourselves after a human standard and like mere (unchanged) men?".... 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:1 The Amplified Translation

The unspiritual [*soulical*] man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they

are spiritually discerned [*vs. 14*]. The soulical are those who have not yet been born anew and who hence do not possess a new [regenerated] spirit. Since their intuitive faculty is dead to God, all which they have are the faculties of the soul [*mind, will, emotions*]. They are well able to decide what they like through reason and affection but, not having a regenerated spirit, they are powerless to receive the things of the Spirit of God. Although these individuals can "think" and "observe", they still lack basic intuitive power; they cannot take in what God reveals exclusively to man's spirit. How utterly inadequate are the natural endowments of man. He truly has much but nothing can substitute for the operation of intuition [*the regenerated human spirit*]. Because man is dead to God no organ exists within him by which they can take in the things of God. Nothing in a soulical man is capable of communing with Him. Man's most respectable mind, intellect and reasoning are as corrupt as their lusts and passions; both equally are incompetent to apprehend God.

Even a regenerated man, if they attempt to communicate with God by using their mind and observation [*sense knowledge and perception*] just as the unregenerate does instead of exercising their renewed spirit, is absolutely impotent to perceive the realities of God [*and His Kingdom*]. Those elements which belong to us naturally do not change their operations following regeneration. A mind is still a mind and a will, a will; these can never be turned into organs capable of communion with God [*in themselves*].