

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

February 5th

THE AUTHORITY OF HIS NAME

[part 2 of 3]

* You remember in 1 John 3:8 that the Spirit tells us about Jesus: "To this end was the Son of God manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil."

But He is now sitting at the right hand of the Father. He is with us in this Word. His ability and wisdom have been given to us. But He is giving us one weapon besides the Sword of the Spirit that Satan cannot withstand. You remember John 14:13, 14, where Jesus said, "He that believeth on Me the works that I do he shall do also and greater than these shall he do because I go unto the Father, and whatsoever ye shall ask in My Name, that will I do." You remember in the sixteenth chapter, "In that day you will not pray to Me." So this does not mean prayer, but this is the use of Jesus' Name in another form, in combat with the Enemy and with the Enemy's works. Jesus came to destroy the works of the Adversary.

Well, we are to take Jesus' place now and use His Name just as Peter and John did in Acts 3:16. That impotent man held out his hand to Peter, sitting as he did at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. And Peter said, "Look on us." And he gave heed, expecting to receive something from them. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Peter raised him up and immediately his ankle bones received strength. And leaping up, he began to walk and entered into the Temple with them walking and leaping and praising God. A miracle had happened, a startling manifestation of the living Christ.

A crowd gathered about them and Peter said, "And His Name, through faith in His Name, hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know" (Acts 3:16). The disciples were arrested for this-locked up; but the next morning they were brought

before the Sanhedrin, the same company of men who had judged Jesus and insisted upon His crucifixion. When they had brought the apostles, they said, "By what authority have you done this?" And Peter said, "If we this day are examined for a good deed concerning a good man by what means he is made whole; be it known unto you all, that in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth, Whom ye crucified, even in His Name does this man stand whole before you."

Read carefully now the whole story in the fourth and fifth chapters and see how the Name of Jesus conquered the Sanhedrin, defeated them thoroughly. They said, "Lest it spread among the people." They scourged them and sent them out and forbade their speaking that Name. But the Name had begun to do its mighty work. Multitudes were healed. Thousands upon thousands flocked into the city from the surrounding towns and were healed. The disciples were arrested again. Acts 5:19, "But an angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors and let them out and said unto them: 'Go, stand and speak in the Temple to the people all the words of this life.' "

The Sanhedrin gathered in the morning. They sent officers to the jail to bring the disciples. When they came to the jail, they found the keepers standing at the doors, but when they opened the prison, the disciples could not be found. Then consternation filled the hearts of the Sanhedrin. They sent for the men who were preaching in the Temple and brought them without violence. The High Priest said, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this Name, and behold, you have filled Jerusalem with this teaching and attempt to bring this man's blood upon us."

Peter answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with His right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."

They were cut to the heart. They were staggered. A man named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law who had the honor of the people, commanded to put the men from them and said that a noble miracle had been done. He admonished them not to take further action for they might find themselves fighting against God. Then they called the apostles and charged them not to speak in the Name of Jesus, and let them go.

You notice that they did not object to the teaching of the Resurrection, but they were afraid of the authority that that Name held. Has that Name lost any of its

authority? The Church has never used it. You hear them pray to Jesus and for Jesus' sake, but we hear almost no one pray intelligently to the Father in this Name.