

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

October 28th

FOR A MESS OF POTTAGE

* Esau sold his birthright. Had he not done it, the Scriptures would have read, "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Esau." Now it reads, "The God of Jacob."

Esau was the oldest, and so the birthright belonged to him. If Esau had not sold his birthright for a mess of pottage, Jesus would have come through his genealogy rather than Jacob's.

That pottage was named Edom. So Esau was known as Edom—a name of derision, shame, and failure.

Many people today are selling their birthright for a moment's pleasure. They are bartering their birthright to hold the opinion of some person. They are selling their birthright for the pleasures of a moment.

How Esau wept when he realized what he had done. But his tears and regret did not bring back the thing that he had bartered away.

Many sell their future happiness for an evening of pleasure. They sell success and future independence for an hour of pleasure. They sell their birthright of fellowship with heaven for a mess of pottage. The price that they received perished with the using. They sold their power with God, their right to use the name of Jesus, the fullness of blessing, for a mess of pottage! Remember that Esau's pleasure died when he ate. And so will ours. The pleasure will leave a pain. The pleasure will leave a bad taste in the mouth of memory.

You have everything. Don't throw it all away. The Spirit is calling on you to cut it out, to turn back again to Him. Ask for His forgiveness, knowing that if you

confess your sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. (See John 3:16.) Then, as He has forgotten our blunders, so we can forget them and set our face toward Him, going out and winning our place in the world.

Study the Word; give yourself to it. Go out after lost men and women. Talk Jesus; preach Jesus; live Jesus; live with His reality throbbing through you. Take Him into your life. Yield to His lordship.

None of us know the vast issues tied up in our lives. In our hands now may be the destiny of nations. Your voice may become not only a local voice but a national voice. We cannot stop believing in our birthright in Christ. The mess of pottage is not worth it. Remember that there is no value in good impulses that die unborn. Translate the impulse into an action, confession, and life.