

## **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*

### **January 22nd**

\* Stooping down, he looked into the tomb and was staggered at what he saw. Peter came.

He hadn't the fine feelings that actuated John, He just bowed his head and stepped into the sepulchre and John followed him. Notice the language: "And lie beholdeth the linen cloths lying, and the napkin that was upon his head not lying with the linen cloths, but laid in a place by itself."

When Jesus came out of the grave clothes there was no hurry. He picked up the napkin that had been upon His face, folded it up and laid it in a niche in the tomb. There is something about that act of the Master that reaches deep into my spirit-consciousness.

He doesn't act like a man, does he?

Only God would act like that in an hour of such triumph. "Then entered therefore that other disciple also who came first to the tomb, and he saw and believed." What did John see in the sepulchre that made him believe that Jesus was resurrected ? "Up to this time they knew not the scripture that he must rise again from the dead."

You understand, Jesus' body had been embalmed as the custom of the Jews was to bury.

Nearly every rich family had a slave who understood embalming. They had one hundred pounds of a mixture composed of myrrh and aloes and a bundle of linen cloths.

They cut the linen up into strips, smeared it with this mixture as you would a bandage to wrap around a wounded finger, and then wrapped the body of Jesus.

Every finger was wrapped separately and then the hands; and arms, until the whole body was wrapped as an Egyptian mummy. When it was finished, they took the embalmed body and put it into the sepulchre, and it was sealed by Roman authority.

Notice, the body of Jesus likely weighed 180 to 200 pounds in his health. He would shrink about twenty pounds in the crucifixion. There was a hundred pound weight of myrrh and aloes, besides the linen cloths they used in embalming. Then the body would weigh about 280 pounds. When they had finished the embalming, His body was completely encased except for His face.

If Jesus had not died of a ruptured heart and the spear thrust, He certainly would have died in the three days and three nights of embalming. No one could have lived thru that.

The embalming cloth had grown hard and stiff in that dry cell in the seventy-two hours He was there. The cloth had not been rent or torn. He had come out of the grave clothes through the narrow aperture where His face had been.