

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 23rd

WHAT THE RESURRECTION GIVES US

[part 4 of 8]

* What do you think Peter and John did? No sooner had they left the sepulchre, than they rushed through the streets crying, "He is risen! He is risen!" Their hearts were so overcharged with emotion they couldn't resist proclaiming the fact. The tremendous stir His resurrection made in the city, three thousand men that accepted Christ on the Day of Pentecost, all prove the historic fact, the absolute certainty of His resurrection.

The whole Jewish nation knew it. They were shaken to the foundation.

I Corinthians 15:1-8 declares that five hundred people saw Him at His ascension. The early Church did not try to prove that Jesus arose from the dead. It was a self-evident fact. No one ever questioned it in Jerusalem. They were there when it happened. They saw the tomb and the empty grave clothes.

Tens of thousands of Jews went to that empty sepulchre, stood there smiting their breasts and rending their garments. They knew Jesus had risen. Now what does it mean to us today? Rev. 1 :17, 18, hear the Resurrected Master speaking now "And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as one dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying, Fear not; I am the first and the last, and the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."

Satan had been conquered. What a thrill went through the whole spirit world when Jesus came from the dark regions, a Master, holding aloft in His hand the keys of death and of hell. He had stripped that foul spirit of his authority. He had left him defeated before his own cohorts. There was a spiritual earthquake in the

region of the damned.

Hebrews 2:14 tells us, "Since then the children are sharers in flesh and blood, he also himself in like manner partook of the same; that through death he might bring to nought him that had the authority of death, that is, the devil." Rotherham translates it "that he might paralyze the death-dealing authority of the devil." Either translation is clear enough.

Before Jesus arose from the dead, He had conquered Satan and stripped him of the authority of which he had robbed man in the Garden.