

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 27th

WHAT THE RESURRECTION GIVES US

[part 8 of 8]

* This is the climax. Now you are ready to turn to 2 Corinthians 2:14-16:

"But thanks be unto God, who always leadeth us in triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest through us the fragrance of his knowledge in every place."

Now note this: "For we are a sweet fragrance of Christ unto God, in them that are saved, and in them that are perishing; to the one a savor from death unto death; to the other a savor from life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

And then hear this cry: "For we are not as the many, corrupting the word of God: but we have been made sufficient to fulfil this ministry." But I want you to notice a little sentence taken from the Conybeare Translation commenting on those verses. "But thanks be to God, who leads me on from place to place in the train of his triumph, to celebrate his victory over the enemies of Christ; and by me sends forth knowledge of Him, a steam of fragrant incense, throughout the world. For Christ's is the fragrance which I offer up to God."

The metaphor is taken from the triumphal procession of a victorious general. God is celebrating His triumph over His enemies; Paul (who had been so great an opponent of the Gospel) is a captive following in the train of the triumphal procession, yet (at the same time, by a characteristic change of metaphor) an incense-bearer, scattering incense (which was always done on these occasions) as the procession moves on.

Some of the conquered enemies were put to death when the procession reached the Capitol; to them the smell of the incense was an odor of death unto

death' ; to the rest who were spared, àn odor of life unto life.' The heart can hardly grasp the significance of it.

We now reign as Masters and Kings. Once more I want to give you Romans 5:17 for it fits here perfectly. (Weymouth's Translation, 3d Ed.)

"For if, through the transgression of one individual, Death made use of the one individual to seize the sovereignty, all the more shall those who receive God's overflowing Grace and gift of righteousness reign as kings in Life through the one individual, Jesus Christ."

We are now reigning as kings in the realm of life.

We have become Masters. We are conquerors. What does the Resurrection mean to us?

It means that He has taken us from slavery to the Throne. We were defeated, conquered, and held in bondage. We are set free, and in the name of Jesus we become the bondage-breakers for the rest of the human race. He has made us Masters where fear held us in captivity.