

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

April 3rd

"IN WHOM WE HAVE"

[part 3 of 8]

* Now you can understand what he meant in Rom. 3. He died for the sins of those living under the First Covenant that had been covered by blood from year to year, that they might have their share in the inheritance and in this Redemption. You see, the Redemption in Christ not only reached forward to us, but reached backward and redeemed every man tunder the First Covenant who had trusted in the blood of bulls and goats.

Hebrews 9:26 now becomes clear to us:

"But now once at the end of the ages hath he been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

He has dealt with the sin problem.

Now it is a sinner problem. The sin problem is ended and the sinner has the legal right to Eternal Life, because God so loved him that He gave him His only Begotten Son.

Redemption then is a settled fact, and it is possible now for a man to receive Eternal Life on legal grounds. 2 Corinthians 5:17,

"Wherefore, if any man is in Christ, lie is a new Creation: the old things are passed away, behold they are become new. But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ."

Note very carefully that in this New Creation, the one who accepts Christ

receives Eternal Life. Spiritual death, the nature of the adversary, is driven out of him, stops being in him, and a New Nature is given to him. His spirit is Recreated. His soul or mind will need to be renewed. (We deal with this in another chapter.)

But the mind and spirit must be brought into fellowship with each other, and that can only be as the mind is renewed through the Word. It is very important that the believer sees this fact In Romans 6:5,

"For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection knowing this, that our old man was crucified with him."

Notice the tense here. Not is crucified with Him, but was crucified. The same truth is brought out in Gal. 2:20. "I have been crucified with Christ." The old version reads, "I am crucified with Christ." Our crucifixion and union with Christ on the cross belong to the legal side of the plan of redemption. All that He did for us in His Redemptive work is based on legal grounds. (The legal is always in the past tense.)

He was delivered up on account of our trespasses. He died for our sins. He arose for our Justification. This is all in the past tense. Now notice Romans 6:6:

"For this we know, that our old self was crucified with Christ, in order that the slave of sin might be destroyed ; so that we should no longer be in slavery to sin." Centenary Translation).

We died with Christ. We were raised together with Him. So the old man, the sin nature that was a partaker of spiritual death, died with Christ. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and confess him as our Lord, we become a New Creation, and experientially that old man stops being and the New Man in Christ takes his place.

This has been a hard problem for many people. They say, " How can that be true in the face of Paul's experience in the 7th of Romans?" Romans 7:7-24 is Paul's experience as a Jew under the Law. It is not the experience of a New Creation.

He said in the 14th verse,

"For we know that the law is spiritual but I am carnal, sold under sin."

The Law was fulfilled in Christ. Nobody is under the Law today. It is true, the Jew didn't know that he died with Christ and that his old Law and the First Covenant all ceased to be in Christ. He doesn't know it today, but it is the truth