

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

May 5th

HOW DOES THE BELIEVER SIN?

[part 1 of 8]

* THIS has been a bone of contention in the Theological world. You see, man is a spirit being. He is in the same class with God. He was created in the image and likeness of God. He had to be in order to become a partaker of the Divine Nature. When he sinned, he became a partaker of Satan's nature, selfishness.

Can you imagine the world free from selfishness? Can you imagine an eternity with people who have no selfish impulses?

Man was like that before the Fall. The part of man that is recreated in his spirit. God imparts to our spirit His own nature, Eternal Life. The law that governs the New Creation man is love. God has shed that love abroad in our hearts. The Holy Spirit imparts to us that love nature so that our spirit becomes the fountain of love just as our senses are the fountain of knowledge.

The ultimate of the New Creation, yes, of Redemption, is fellowship. Man was created for fellowship with God. God was love-hungry, His heart craved love, so this spirit man came into being. God gave him a physical body so that he could live on the earth.

His body is the home of his spirit and of his five senses. It is through his senses that his brain receives all of its impulses. The senses give birth to all of the knowledge that natural man has. Let us look at man from another angle for just a moment. When man is recreated he comes into relationship with God. With that relationship comes fellowship.

The world is dominated by Satan, and we come into contact with it through

our senses.

When man is Born Again, his spirit is recreated, but his mind is still dominated and ruled and receives all of its impulses from the senses. There is only one law that governs the New Creation, and that is love. We are to love "even as He loved us." For me to break the law means that I step out of the realm of love into the realm of the senses. Sin, then, is living in the realm of the senses and leaving the realm of love. When I step out of love, I step into selfishness. There are only two great forces in the world today; they are love and selfishness.

Every sin that a believer commits begins in selfishness. Selfishness may lead him into a host of different kinds of sin, but there is only one basic sin, and that is selfishness.