

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 16th

THE LAW OF LIFE

[part 5 of 7]

* Romans 8:2, 3-11 has another suggestion for us, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me (as a Jew) free from the law of sin and of death."

That Scripture cannot apply to a Gentile because no Gentile was ever under the "Law of Sin and Death." Then it shows you in the third verse the importance of the Law. "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, (or through the senses of spiritually dead men) God sending his own Son in the likeness of men who walk in the senses, has condemned sin in the senses, that the righteous requirements of the law might be fulfilled in us (the New Creation), who walk not after the senses, but after the Recreated spirit" (Lit.)

The Greek Word Sarx as translated "flesh", should be translated "senses" every time. It makes it clearer. Notice the fifth verse: "For they that are after the senses mind the things of the senses." Why? Because the senses are the children of the physical body. They are the offspring of natural human life-seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling and feeling. They convey all the knowledge to the brain that we have outside of Christ.

So they that are after the senses are ruled by the senses because they are accustomed to obeying them. They that are after the spirit are accustomed to obeying the things of the spirit. The word "spirit" here means the spirit of the Recreated man. So let me read it like this: "For they that are after the senses are going to do the things that the senses suggest.

But they that are after the Recreated spirit, are going to do the things of the Recreated spirit that has the Nature and Life of God in it."

Now the next verse: "For the mind of the senses is under the dominion of spiritual death, but the mind of the Recreated spirit is under the dominion of Zoe, the Life of God, and that brings peace and rest and quietness." (Lit.) That seventh verse is suggestive: "Because the mind of the senses is enmity against God. It is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be," whether it be the Law of the Ten Commandments or the Law of the New Covenant.

"For they that are living in the realm of the senses cannot please God." Now notice this ninth verse : "But ye are not governed by the senses but by the spirit (that is, your Recreated spirit), if so be that the Spirit of God (that is, the Holy Spirit), dwelleth in you. But if any man bath not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." That doesn't mean the Holy Spirit. A better translation is, "If any man has not a Christ-like spirit (that is, a Recreated spirit), he is none of his."

Many of our Commentators have given us a wrong conception of that. They have said, If any man has not the Holy Spirit, he is not a Christian, but that is not true. A man can be a child of God, receive Eternal Life, and yet not have received the Holy Spirit, for you remember Luke 11:13 says, "How much more will your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him." Only Sons will ask for the Spirit.