

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 24th

SELFISHNESS IS ABSORBED IN LOVE

[part 2 of 3]

Love Is Reality

* Romans 8:9, "But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." That does not mean the Holy Spirit. That means the spirit that dominated Jesus' life, just as our spirits dominate us.

The Christ-like spirit is a love spirit. Jesus was a lover. Jesus loved Zacchaeus, He loved Judas, and He loved Pontius Pilate.

The reason He healed the sick was not to prove that He was God. He could not help it. He loved them, and human suffering challenged Him.

The reason He died on the Cross was that He so loved us.

"He loved us, and gave Himself up for us."

Romans 12:9, "Let love be without hypocrisy."

In other words, let love be without selfishness because selfishness always breeds hypocrisy.

Selfishness is the outlaw in the realm of love. It breaks into that realm. It seeks to dethrone love and take its crown.

Selfishness is a robber, a bold wicked robber. It makes men dissemble. It breaks friendships. It wrecks homes. It ruins Churches. It destroys the fruit at love.

There is only one force able to conquer selfishness and destroy its effectiveness in the lives of men. That force is the new kind of love.

The natural man loves a woman because she satisfies the desires of his heart. He doesn't think of making her happy. He only desires pleasure for himself. If he cannot have her affections, he would rather destroy her than have another man win her. Love murderers are a part of human history.

Natural, human love turns, through neglect, to hatred, jealousy, and murder.

Only a few months ago a man standing in Court in one of our Coast Cities said to the Judge, "I loved her so I could not help it. I killed her."

"Agapa," the Jesus-kind of love, never turns to jealousy, bitterness, hatred, or murder. It is the solution of the human problem. There is not a phase of life that it does not meet the issue.

Because of it the laboring man will do more than he is hired to do; the employer will pay more than the laborer asks. There will be no quarreling between them. Each will seek to give more than the other gives.

Can't you see what it would mean to the commercial world? There would no longer be this deadly competition of the strong destroying the weak.

When God's nature comes into a man and he gives that nature sway, he cannot do differently than Jesus would in his place.

In Ephesians 5:2 the Spirit tells us to walk in love. "Walk" means "conduct." It means the business man's attitude toward his competitor or his customer.

We are going to treat men as God treats them.

Sense Knowledge has kept us in slavery. Do you understand what I mean by Sense Knowledge?

All the knowledge that man possesses, that is taught in our Grade Schools, Colleges, and Technical Schools has come to us through the Five Senses – seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, and feeling. Our body has been the laboratory, and all

our knowledge has come to us through experimentation.

Sense Knowledge cannot understand spiritual things nor spiritual values, consequently love has never been given its place. We have used it as a toy, as a means to an end.

Now the hour has come when love must have its place.

Society is going to break under the strain. Anarchy is going to reign.

Do you know what anarchy is? It is selfishness without restraint. It is the absence of God. It is man attempting to solve life's problems and leaving God out of his reckoning. That makes him an anarchist.