

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

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[part 7 of 10]

* To the human mind these ideas are no less puzzling than were the words of Jesus to Nicodemus in John 3:3. There it was a question of how to be born again. Here it is something even more improbable—something not only to be effected in us, as new birth, but to be seen and accepted as ours because it has already been effected long ago in Someone else. How could such a thing be? We cannot explain. We must receive it from God as something he has done.

We were not born with Christ, but we were crucified with him (Galatians 2:20). Our union with him began therefore with his death. God included us in him there. We were "with him" because we were "in him." But how can I be sure that I am "in Christ"? I can be sure because the Bible affirms that it is so, and that it was God who put me there. "Of him [God] are ye in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:30). "He that establisheth us with you in Christ . . . is God" (2 Corinthians 1:21).

It is something accomplished by him in his sovereign wisdom, to be seen, believed, accepted, and rejoiced in by us. If I put a dollar bill between the pages of a magazine, and then burn the magazine, where is the dollar bill? It has gone the same way as the magazine—to ashes. Where the one goes the other goes too. Their history has become one. But, just as effectively, God has put us in Christ. What happened to him happened also to us. All the experiences he met, we too have met in him. "Our old man was crucified with him, that the body of sin might be done away, that so we should no longer be in bondage to sin" (Romans 6:6).

That is not an exhortation to struggle. That is history: our history, written in Christ before we were born. Do you believe that? It is true! Our crucifixion with Christ is a glorious historic fact. Our deliverance from sin is based, not on what we

can do, nor even on what God is going to do for us, but on what he has already done for us in Christ. When that fact dawns upon us and we rest back upon it (Romans 6:11), then we have found the secret of a holy life. But it is true that we know all too little of this in experience.