

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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* The story of Job closes with the account of the "abundance" of grace and cloudless fellowship with God, which is the end, or purpose, of the Lord's dealings with every soul; but for another aspect of this same abundant life, promised to us in Christ Jesus our Lord, we must turn to the history of the apostle Paul. In Job we are shown the abundance that follows the brokenness, but in Paul we behold the greater brokenness that is the further outcome of the abundance. In brief it may be said that after the soul has been broken down on every side and brought in the abundant life typified by the "double" restored to Job, we are shown by Paul's history that it will be led on the man-ward side into still greater brokenness for the "outpouring of life" to others.

On the God-ward side the soul will be led from faith to faith, strength to strength, glory to glory, while on the earth-ward side the outward man is always "delivered unto death" and becomes increasingly a partaker of the afflictions of Christ for His Body's sake, the Church, until in a very real sense the language of the soul finds expression in the words of Paul the apostle - "as dying, and behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing all things" (2 Corinthians 6:9-10). Like the Lord they serve, "crucified through weakness" - daily, hourly, weakness - yet living in union with Him as the Risen One, by the power of God toward others for whom He died.

....*"For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you".... 2 Corinthians 13:4 NASB*