

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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**"Every one therefore which heareth these words of Mine, and doeth them, shall be likened unto a wise man which built his house upon the rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon the rock. And every one that heareth these words of Mine and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and rain descended, and the floods came. and the winds blew, and smote upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall thereof".... Matthew 7:24-27*

Jesus does not allow His "hearers" to go away and make of His sayings what they will, picking and choosing from them whatever they find "helpful", and testing them to see if they work. He does not give them "free rein" to misuse His Word with their "mercenary" hands ("mercenary" - influenced by a desire for personal gain or reward;), but gives it to them on condition that it retains exclusive power over them. Humanly speaking, we could understand and interpret the Sermon on the Mount in a thousand different ways. Jesus knows only one possibility: simple surrender and obedience, not interpreting it or "applying" it, but doing and obeying it. That is the only way to "hear" His Word. He does not mean that it is to be discussed as an ideal, He really means us to get on with it! The only proper response to the Word which Jesus brings with Him from eternity is simply to do it. Jesus has spoken: His is the word, ours is obedience.

Only in the doing of it does the Word of God retain its honour, might and power among us. Now the storm can rage over the house, but it cannot shatter that union with Him, which His Word has created. There is only one other possibility, that of failing to do it. It is impossible to want to do it and yet not do it. To deal with the Word of God otherwise than by doing it is to live a lie! It is to deny the

Sermon on the Mount and to say no to His Word. If we start asking questions, posing problems, and offering interpretations, we are not doing His Word. However "vehemently" we assert our faith, and fundamental recognition of His Word, Jesus still calls it "not-doing". But the Word which we fail to do is no "rock" to build a house on. There can be no union with Jesus for He has never "known"(oida Gr.) us. That is why as soon as the "hurricane" begins we lose the Word, and find that we have never really truly believed it. The "word" we had was not Christ's, but a word we had "wrested" from Him and made our own by reflecting on it instead of doing it. So our house crashes in ruins, because it is not founded on the "Living Word" of God!