

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*

June 17th

STAND

[part 16 of 21]

The God Of Elijah

[part 1]

Let me give you in closing an experience of my own. A few years after the beginning of our work we entered upon a period of severe testing. They were days of disappointment and near-despair. We had come in for a great deal of criticism and discredit on account of the stand we were taking, resulting in coolness and estrangement, even on the part of the Lord's true people.

We had honestly faced and examined the charges made against us, for it is essential always to take criticism seriously and examine it, and not to pass it off with 'Oh! he's just criticizing me!' Yet we had reason to believe that the Lord was with us, for, as a particularly difficult year drew to its close, we were able to reckon that within that period He had given us several hundreds of real conversions.

Then, at the year's end, it seemed that a climax was reached. Annually for several years it had been our custom at the New Year public holiday to hold a convention in the city for believers of different connections from throughout the province. This year the sponsors of the convention asked me not to attend. The request came as a shock to us.

It was, I now realize, an attempt by the Evil One to draw me and my brethren off our ground of rest in Christ. The question was, how would we react? The New Year holiday is a long one, lasting fully fifteen days, and besides being a suitable period for a convention, it is also the best time for Gospel preaching.

After seeking the Lord's will we became clear that He would have us use it for the latter purpose, so I planned to take with me five brothers for a fifteen-day preaching visit to an island off the South China coast. At the last moment another young brother whom I shall call 'brother Wu' joined the party. He was only sixteen years of age and had been expelled from school, but he had just lately been born again and there was a marked change in his life. Moreover he was very eager to come, so after some hesitation I agreed to take him. This made us seven in all.