

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*

[FEBRUARY 5TH 2019]

* In the New Testament our enemies are those who harbor hostility against us, not those against whom we cherish hostility, for Jesus refuses to reckon with such a possibility. The Christian must treat their enemy as a "brother, and requite their hostility with love. Their behavior must be determined not by the way others treat them, but by the treatment they themselves have received from God. By our enemies Jesus means those who are quite intractable and utterly unresponsive to our love, who forgive us nothing when we forgive them all, who requite our love with hatred and our service with derision. Love asks nothing in return, but seeks those who need it; and who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love? Who, in other words, deserves our love more than our enemy?

Christian love draws no distinction between one enemy and another, except that the more bitter our enemy's hatred, the greater their need of love. Be their enmity political or religious, they have nothing to expect from a follower of Jesus Christ but unqualified love. In such love there is no inner discord between private person and official capacity, In both, we are disciples of Christ, or we are not Christians at all! Am I asked how this love is to behave? Jesus gives the answer: bless, do good, and pray for your enemies without reserve and without respect of persons.

....*"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you".... Matthew 5:44 NASB*