

Pressed to Meditation

“I will meditate in Thy precepts.”

– Psalm 119:15 –

There are times when solitude is better than society, and silence is wiser than speech. We would be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for labor in His service. We ought to muse upon the things of God, because through it we get the real essence out of them.

Recently I was driving along the Finger Lakes, observing acre after acre of vineyards soon to be ready for the gathering of grapes. I thought to myself, truth is something like the clusters of grapes on the vine: if we would have juice from them, we must bruise them; they must be pressed and squeezed. Great care and time must be taken or else the juice will not be collected; or else much of the precious liquid will be wasted. So we must, by meditation, ‘tread’ the ‘clusters’ of truth if we would benefit from the ‘juice’ of spiritual comfort.

Our bodies are not sustained by merely taking food into the mouth, but the process which really feeds the muscle, and the nerve, and the bone, is the process of digestion. It is by digestion that the outward food becomes assimilated with the inner life. Our souls are not nourished merely by listening casually, and then skipping randomly around to other parts of divine truth. Hearing, reading, and learning, and understanding all require inwardly digesting to complete their usefulness, and the inward digesting of the truth lies for the most part in meditating upon it.

Why is it that some Christians, although they hear many sermons, make but slow advances in the divine life? Are they neglecting their closets, and not thoughtfully meditating on God's Word? They love the wheat, but they do not grind it; they would have the corn, but they will not go into the fields to gather it; the fruit hangs upon the tree, but they will not pluck it; the water flows at their feet, but they will not stoop to drink it. From such folly deliver us, O Lord, and let us resolve in our hearts today, "I will meditate in Thy precepts."

– Article submitted by Chuck Wetzel, 09.21.20