

But that is certainly the most marvelous presentation of Christian love, and unless we have the thirteenth chapter of I Corinthians in our hearts and in our lives, then truly as Paul says, We are as a sounding brass or a tinkling s~~ymbal~~. I recommend to you constant thought and meditation upon this chapter, not for the purpose of criticizing others and seeing whether they have it. We can't judge about the ~~to~~thers. You cannot judge another. You cannot judge another. He is Christ's servant. But look at ~~how~~ your own heart, and you will find ~~that~~ ^{if} you are human, that you fall very very far short of what you should have in relation to ...4½..... Let's think upon it, meditate upon it, and pray God to make it real to our hearts. ¶ But now moving backwards through this book in I Cor., and noticing the wonderful way in which the book ends, but before that there is a long section in which Paul is dealing with various features of the church there which were disagreeable. Features which bothered him, and he is writing, urging them to correct these bad features. There are long sections on eating of meat offered to idols. There are sections on sexual matters in the book which deal with great abuses which come into the church, and which ~~is~~ ^{it was} very vital that he deal with. But he does not start the book with any of these things. He starts it with a problem which evidently was so marked in his mind, and seemed so important to him, that he felt ~~it~~ it necessary to jump right into this problem immediately, and to take four chapters with which to deal with this problem, because he evidently felt that this was something which was so vital, that unless it was dealt with properly, other matters it wasn't necessary to go to, there was not point in going to them, unless this matter could be ~~like~~ properly dealt with. And I think that these four chapters are worthy of our thought and our meditation at any time in our lives. It is God's Word, and we should get far more value meditating on His Word, than on anything that we could say. And so it is far better for us, I think, to go through the four chapters, and to take a verse somewhere in it, and to think about that, and meditate on that, and bring illustrations regarding it, helpful as that might be.