*Friday, April 19, 2013*

**John**

John 15:1-2 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. (KJV)

This week we have talked about not only beginning our walk in the Spirit, but continuing in the Spirit so that someday we can receive a crown of life. The Bible clearly points out what it takes to stay in good standing with our heavenly Father, and what the true requirements are to be allowed access into His eternal realm.

Matthew 5:28-30 But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. 30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. (KJV)

Purging refers to pruning, cutting something off that is dead and flammable. As we see illustrated in the verses above, the things that are being cut off and cast away are spiritual in nature, and this is encouraged so that you can look at things the way they were meant to be seen. If there is something or someone the Lord is asking you to cut loose from your life, know that it is for your advantage so that it won’t cause you to be cut off from your source of life.

Hebrews 4:12-13 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. (KJV)

The Lord’s surgical tool is the sharpest one available. It will cut fast and deep bringing healing quickly. Just like with a cancer in the body today, the surgeons will cut off the body part that will cause the cancer to spread if not dealt with.

Matthew 10:34-36 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. (KJV)

The peace of God that you experience may not always jive with others. Just because you choose to accept the Lord doesn’t mean everyone else around you will be gung ho. This is where that sword cuts deep and close to home. Now you have a choice to make; will you be obedient to what the Lord is asking and continue bearing the fruit of the Spirit, or will decide to please man?

Matthew 10:37-39 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. (KJV)

God bless dearly loved, and have a very prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.