*Wednesday, June 26, 2013*

**Motives**

John 10:11-13 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. 12 But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catches them, and scattered the sheep. 13 The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. (KJV)

The Bible says that the greatest love we can have is to lay down our own lives for the benefit of others, where your own desires take a back seat to the needs of others. Those who desire to work in the ministry must be motivated by a love for God and His people; otherwise they will not be used by the Lord. The hirelings or those that are simply doing ministry work as a living or occupation don’t last long with the Lord, and the reality is that when the wages run out, they are not far behind. If you’re motivated to ministry work for a carnal living only, then that is as far as your reward will go.

Mark 10:42-45 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. 43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. 45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (KJV)

There are many people today who call themselves ministers; however, few are called ministers by the Lord. There is quite a difference when you see who our Lord is using, and those we see claiming to be ministering on His behalf. Many have this order reversed and spend more time lifting up their name and ministries and not the Lord’s.

Luke 16:19-21 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. (KJV)

I use this example because it is fitting. Many who claim to be ministers of the Lord are living high off the backs of others. They don’t know and understand the true love of God, their motives are backward and all they end up feeding their flocks is crummy doctrine.

Matthew 7:19-23 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire 20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. 21 Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (KJV)

Verse 22 says that many have fallen into this category because obviously their motives were not right for serving the Lord. Go back to Luke 16 and read the rest of the chapter and you will see that the rich guy in his purple robe ended up getting fired so to speak, and some of these hot shot preachers today in their three piece suits will find their phony doctrines highly flammable as well.

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