*Monday, August 22, 2011*

**Reality Check**

1 Thessalonians 2:3-6 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: (4) But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. (5) For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: (6) Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. (KJV)

So you desire to be used of God and preach His word do you? Well here is your reality check to see if you are qualified. Just like with running backs in football you want someone who is going to go forward towards the goal line despite the opposition. When you are handed the ball you will need to lower your head and move forward despite what many others may think of you. So really, are you a go to person who the Lord can count on, or will you cave into peer pressure and seek to please man more than God?

Psalms 12:1-3 Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. (2) They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak. (3) The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things: (KJV)

There we see the term flattering again, and we see that it is in opposition to what our Lord intended as well. Nothing will throw a person for a loss quicker than trying to please the carnal man more than the Spiritual one. Remember too, without faith it is impossible to please God, and you will be considered a failure in His sight. So much for that first round pick who had so much promise in the beginning but ended up to be a big bust in the end.

Hosea 10:1-2 Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images. (2) Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images. (KJV)

Kind of like a serpent, you know with the forked tongue, their heart is divided and they are trying to please God and man at the same time; not happening Church! Many of what man calls a teacher and preacher today is spending more time trying to appease the people rather than seeking the honor from above. A people pleasing bunch, to say the least.

Isaiah 30:9-11 That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: (10) Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: (11) Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. (KJV)

Interesting definitions for the word ‘smooth’, flattering was one as well as slippery; you know, like those people that you would refer to as slick? Oh we have so many in the pulpits today who are more concerned with the outward appearance rather than ministering to the inward man. Those are the big organizations; you know, the fastest growing ones in the community where mankind judges by numbers and headcounts, and not by what really counts? Hey remember what happened in the Old Testament when they tried to number the people?

2 Timothy 4:2-4 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (KJV)

This message is coming from God through a man named Paul, and if one ever does a study of his life you will see that he was used of God because he wasn’t some phony people pleaser. So today, how’s your reality check doing; will it pass, or be stamped NSF, not Spiritually functional?