*Thursday, October 7, 2010*

**Rock Of Ages**

Matthew 16:24-26 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (25) For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (26) For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (KJV)

We have been talking this week about and seeing the name that was being revealed to God’s people, the name of Christ that was blessed because it came from the throne of God. What we are also seeing is what is required for those that know this name, so that they can depart from iniquity, doing the will of God. We see how the message changes once they know the truth, and the responsibility that goes with this knowledge. We see our Lord using the term ‘take up his cross’, even before His own crucifixion. We see also that in order to find this new life in Christ we have to lose our old one first. This is what truly separates the men from the boys so to speak, where the rubber truly does hit the road if one is going to move forward in their walk in the Spirit, heading in the right direction.

Philippians 3:7-9 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. (8) Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, (9) And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: (KJV)

So how many things did Paul consider in the loss column? Wow, all of them huh? Yeah well, if you want all of the Lord working on your behalf then you will find that with what measure you give our Lord’s way is coming right back at you. So if you find that things are a bit stale in your walk and it doesn’t seem like you are making any forward progress, then maybe you need to find out what you are still hanging onto that is causing the problem. If you notice in verse 8, that the excellence of this knowledge comes after you let go of your life and its fallen desires, and like dung you have flushed them down the drain.

1 Timothy 6:3-5 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; (4) He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, (5) Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. (KJV)

The Bible is quite emphatic to point out that in the last days there would be many, not a few, false prophets out and about, deceiving and being deceived as well. We see the word ‘gain’ mentioned again; and especially in today’s society, we are surrounded by those that claim just the opposite of what our Lord says is sound doctrine. Many equate the gain of this world as godliness, while our Lord said that those that would be seeking those things would not inherit His kingdom. So now, just how do you think you will really be heard when you come along preaching just the opposite of the world and its worldly people, with truth? Not a popular path people, but in order for you to make it to our Lord’s destination you too are going to have to take up your Spiritual cross and go to your Calvary also.

1 John 2:14-17 I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. (15) Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (KJV)

You know, the fact is that this fallen world is passing away, and so are all those that are hanging on to its fallen ways as well. The reason those people were considered strong in the Lord and in the power of His might as we see in verse 14 is because they have left their own worldly desires at the door before entering into the Lord’s realm. You will find that in order for you to gain access to your reward in heaven you will need to leave your old life behind so that you don’t get left behind when our Lord returns for His people.

Matthew 4:8-10 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; (9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. (10) Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (KJV)

Hey, it’s not like the enemy didn’t take a shot at our Lord to see where He stood, and try to get Him to fall for some cheap imitation of what a true blessing really involved. Again we see our Lord telling the enemy where to go, to get behind Him and not stand in the way of His heavenly reward. If more of God’s people would put the world and its desires behind them as well, then we would see a lot stronger Church and not such a wimpy bunch of people pleasers who cater more to the congregation than the Creator.