*Tuesday, February 7, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

John 15:4-6 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (6) If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. (KJV)

Strongs definition for ‘abide’:

3306 meno (men'-o); a primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): KJV-- abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry.

Well Church, continuing along on the path of life we see the real terms and conditions of our heavenly contract spelled out for us, they are simple and complete. Now that God has sent us His Son and brought the reconciliation to us, we see what it takes to continue in good standing with Him. Do take note of the end of verse 6, which makes a very specific reference to being burned, because the reality Church is that the second death is still in play until we depart from this realm and are accepted into the eternal one.

John 15:7-8 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (8) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. (KJV)

Some people get frustrated with their prayer life thinking that God is ignoring them, or that He just isn’t interested in their requests. However, if you really are honest with yourself you may find out that this is just a reflection of your own walk with the Lord, ignoring Him and not making His kingdom your first priority. Once you accepted God’s plan of salvation it is required of His people that they continue in the realm of the Spirit by faith, bearing the fruit of the Spirit. If not, you will find yourself in for a long dry spell.

1John 2:26-29 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. (27) But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. (28) And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. (29) If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him. (KJV)

You know, our Lord is not too pleased with man’s self righteous attitudes, thus why He provided His robe of righteousness so that we could be covered fully. Here is the question that He is asking His people today; if you know that He is more righteous than anything you could come up with, then why didn’t you seek first His kingdom instead of some temporal short cut that you thought was the answer?

John 15:9-11 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. (10) If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. (11) These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. (KJV)

The joy of the Lord is our strength; so if you have been a bit down and out or depressed lately, take a close look at verse 10 again and see if there is something missing.