*Thursday, September 13, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

Ephesians 2:4-6 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (6) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: (KJV)

When I think of my own life I see someone who tried things his own way and ended up in the quicksand of this world, the more I struggled to get out the farther down I went into the abyss. I have found that when I quit struggling and reach out for the Lord’s hand, which is never too short to save, He pulls me back to a rock solid foundation. I enjoy sitting with the Lord on a daily basis so that I can hear personally what He had planned for me before the foundation of the world. Then I sit back and marvel sometimes when I think I know better.

Ephesians 2:7-10 That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (KJV)

While the world and its worldly preachers keep pointing people to the riches of this life and all the works that they think they can do, our Lord lays out the simplicity of the gospel by the works that He ordained for us to walk in before the creation of this world. Paul got that message which is why he was able to write so effectively, being led by the Spirit of how salvation really works which is apart from our works.

James 2:20-24 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? (22) Seest thou how faith wrought with his works and by works was faith made perfect? (23) And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. (24) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. (KJV)

Now as you see, the works that we need to respond to are those that are ordained of our Father, which is why we are justified. I have met a lot of talkers and have done my own share of talking; however, for me to grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord I need to step out in faith when I hear the Lord. It is considered sin when we don’t follow through with what our Lord ordained for us to walk in before the foundation of the world. Which is referred to as the straight and narrow path which many are missing and only a few have found because they actually stepped out in faith to find it.

2 Timothy 1:7-9 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (8) Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; (9) Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (KJV)

Many people call it quits when the going gets a bit tough, they are called fair weather friends, here today gone tomorrow. You however will stay on that path of life when you realize the grace of God and the gift and plan that He drew up for you personally before the creation of this world. I would describe anything outside of grace as being religion, dead works by dead people who spent more time letting man dictate the plan of salvation to them rather than God Himself.