*Tuesday, September 18, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

1John 4:17-19 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (19) We love him, because he first loved us. (KJV)

So what really motivates you today; is it really the love of God, or is there some other love that has crept in, sneaking past your Spiritual radar? God’s true church knows and understands His love and how to reciprocate it, not only to our Lord but His people as well. All the other wannabe’s and pretenders are easy to spot; well, at least when the eyes of your understanding is wide open to the truth.

Matthew 6:1-4 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. (2) Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (3) But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: (4) That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. (KJV)

This is what frosts my cake so to speak, when I see all these do gooders who come out of the woodwork, especially during the holidays showing their deeds before men. The same holds true with these ministers, who advertise all their so called deeds that they claim to be doing on the Lord’s behalf, nonsense and childish. Again, the question needs to be asked, ‘what is the real motive of the heart’; because anything other than a pure love for our Lord is a waste of time.

Matthew 6:5-8 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (6) But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. (7) But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. (8) Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. (KJV)

Another one that rankles me a bit is when these so called Christians decide that they need to make some big public proclamation about some prayer meeting they are going to have; whether it is around some flag pole or anything else that they think will get God’s attention. It will get God’s attention all right; however, not for the right reason when people go seeking and loving the praise of men more than that of God.

Colossians 3:22-25 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: (23) And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; (24) Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. (25) But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. (KJV)

I don’t care if they claim they are Christians and belong to some big following; God’s word is specific on where He stands concerning the motive of the heart. If that motive is anything other than a love of Him then it is a waste of time no matter who you are, or who you claim to be doing it for.

Matthew 6:16-18 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. (17) But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; (18) That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. (KJV)

Actually, our Lord has a special name and title for those that do things with the wrong motive. Even though they may claim to be Christian, the truth is that He has labeled them in a different column, hypocrites.