*Friday, July 22, 2011*

**The Grand Illusion**

2 Corinthians 9:5-7 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness. (6) But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. (7) Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (KJV)

We talked the other day about tithing and how so many put so much emphasis on the outward, and in fact we found out that tithing is outdated, Old Testament stuff. Paul dealt with the topic of giving, but as you see he didn’t make such a big deal out of it or make it the center of all his sermons. Just the other day I saw where a large TV ministry was promoting a living trust fund where they could actually get into your wallet even after your death. I pictured a bunch of vultures sitting on a fence post with the faces of these preachers on top of them.

2Corinthians 9:8-11 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (9) (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. (10) Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) (11) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. (KJV)

Bottom line folks, what is really going to get you home, a pile of money or the grace of God? I personally will take the grace of God anytime, because part of that grace is that I am already bought with a price and God has promised to supply all my need.

2Kings 12:4 And Jehoash said to the priests, All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the LORD, even the money of every one that passeth the account, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the LORD, (KJV)

Church, don’t let others pack your bags on a guilt trip concerning giving, rather let the Lord lead you concerning this area. If all you do is get hit up like some infomercial by a bunch of money grubbing vultures then move on, knowing the area that they have fallen in is manifested by their false teachings concerning their love of money more than the Lord.

1Chronicles 29:8-9 And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite. (9) Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy. (KJV)

You know, if you can’t do it from the heart then don’t bother doing it at all. I have been involved in a group where they would complain and bicker about what they claimed others were not giving, which got old fast. When the attention gets more focused on the outward than the inward, that is a true sign that the house is about to fall.

1Timothy 5:17-18 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. (18) For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. (KJV)

So in the end Church, keep it simple; if you are attending a local church and are getting fed by the Lord through a pastor then follow through on your obligation, but make sure that it is the Lord leading and not some pity party guilt trip being laid on the people. In other words, put your money where the mouth of the Lord is.

Galatians 6:6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. (KJV)

Keep it simple Church, and quit being duped by the illusionists who try to take a Spiritual God and put Him in their own denominational boxes and then make it appear that He pops out according to works. Rightly divide the word of truth so that you will know and not be swayed or tossed to and fro by a bunch of cheap hucksters and their carnival, or should I say carnal full sideshow acts and illusions. God bless and stay alert.