*Tuesday, November 8, 2011*

**Vain Repetitions**

John 6:63-64 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (64) But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. (KJV)

Take note of how far our own thoughts and ways will get us concerning the kingdom of God and our walk with Him. The first word that comes to mind is the word vain; someone who is empty, void, and not of much help concerning salvation. The point is that the more we can get our own thoughts and ways out of the equation, the more we allow the Lord to take over and fill the void so that we can avoid running and laboring in vain.

1 Corinthians 3:5-8 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? (6) I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. (7) So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. (8) Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. (KJV)

It’s interesting to note of what Paul thought of himself; that being, a man that God used to write a good portion of the epistles, written to the Church. In fact when referring to himself as well as others that God may speak through, he says that man is not really anything compared to God and His wisdom. I see and hear so ‘few’ today who are less concerned with building up a following, and more concerned with building up the followers in Christ.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. (2) And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. (3) And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. (KJV)

Once again we see that nothing much is really happening when man takes over and tries to impress the people more than pleasing our Lord. Many people are drawn to certain big name messengers rather than the message itself which is supposed to be coming from our Lord. A true messenger of God is one where the people are pointed more to the Lord and less to the person.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, (5) Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; (KJV)

Those that are truly called of God, and who are delivering His message of love will do it in a humble loving manner rather than some loud boisterous outward gaudy show.

2 Corinthians 12:10-11 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. (11) I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing. (KJV)

Remember that thing about ‘the first being last and the last first’? Well, Paul realized that when he put others first, then that is the doctrine that will last with the Lord; anything else is just vanity.