*Monday, May 9, 2011*

**A Force To Be Reckoned With**

Hebrews 9:16-17 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. (17) For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. (KJV)

Strongs definition for ‘force’:

949 bebaios (beb'-ah-yos); from the base of 939 (through the idea of basality); stable (literally or figuratively): KJV-- firm, of force, stedfast, sure.

Are you firm in your conviction concerning the Lord and what you give testimony to? No, I am not talking about personal testimonies because those are a dime a dozen and get old fast. I am talking about those that give testimony to the things of God and what they know, not what they think or hope is true. You will notice above that a testament is of force after men are dead. You will find out in your own walk that in order to be a force to be reckoned with yourself, someone else will have to die for that to take place.

Romans 6:3-4 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (KJV)

Remember how our Lord died and what method was used? Well quite frankly if you desire to be used by God to give testimony to His plan of salvation you are going to have to take up your own cross as well. Oh how so many desire to go to heaven some day, however only a scant few are really dying to get there. The real baptism that is going to be of any force in your life is Spiritual in nature, and so are those that are truly partaking of it.

Romans 6:5-7 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. (7) For he that is dead is freed from sin. (KJV)

Do you really want to go to a heavenly place and take a seat with our Lord today? Well in order to get there someone needs to die, and that someone would be our old man. If you truly desire to be set free from sin, then a death needs to take place before one can give an effective witness and testimony to the things above.

Romans 6:8-10 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: (9) Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. (10) For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. (KJV)

Sin in its simplest form is unbelief, a realm our Lord came to deliver us from. As we see illustrated above, those that die to sin are able to get to know Christ personally, and then live in the realm of the Spirit.

Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. (KJV)

Do you truly desire to be a force to be reckoned with? Well I reckon you become dead to the things of this life so that you can give an effective witness and testimony to the new life in Christ.