*Tuesday, May 10, 2011*

**A Force To Be Reckoned With**

Hebrews 9:14-17 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (15) And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. (16) 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)

Now that Jesus Christ has come to this planet and paid the price for our sin, He expects us to be Christ like as well, thus the reason why His people are referred to as Christians. However, in order to find this new life and stay firmly planted in His kingdom we too are going to have to take up our own cross in order to get there.

Matthew 16:24-25 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (25) For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (KJV)

Sometimes people are not much of a force, rather more of a farce because they are not willing to let go of the old in order to be a partaker of the new. Many draw the line at this point and go looking for that fun and games religion where all they do is get blessed without any personal responsibility on their part. In other words, if you desire to follow our Lord and find out what is going on in His kingdom, well then you will need to cross over from the realm of the flesh and into the Spirit to get there Church.

Matthew 16:26-27 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (27) For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. (KJV)

So really, what are you still hanging onto that is more important than your eternal reward? What is it really going to profit you, to gain the attention and approval of a fallen mankind, only to be turned away from the gate when seeking your eternal reward?

Luke 14:26-27 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. (27) And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. (KJV)

Our Lord had His own cross to bear, and I am sure He wasn’t pleased with being nailed to it in the end. As seen illustrated above, we too have our own cross to bear, and as verse 26 illustrates, some of the things or people we need to die to hit close to home. However, in order to be giving an effective testimony to the things above you will need to die to those below here first.

Colossians 2:13-15 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; (14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (15) And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (KJV)

Hey, I got a simple question for the Church today. If God accepted the sacrifice of Jesus Christ once and for all as being paid in full, why hasn’t mankind, or better yet His Church? In fact, the Lord put the enemy on open display that he is defeated now, because the Lord accomplished everything needed on our behalf. In other words, why is the so called church still caught up in a bunch of useless works of the old law thinking something still needs to be done? Would that not be calling our Lord a liar? Not much of a force to be reckoned with there is it?

Something to ponder. God bless.