*Monday, January 6, 2014*

**Consider Your Ways**

Isaiah 55:7-9 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. (KJV)

This week take a time out and consider your ways. Are they in line with what our Lord is speaking concerning your walk or have you veered off the path a bit and become caught up again in the cares of this life? Recently, while watching a documentary about retirement plans I couldn’t help but notice how the people were being left in fear and doubt. A retirement system that was working just fine was being replaced with something that was more self serving to others and leaving the employees holding the bag. The same thing has been done by the devil to many of God’s people who at one time may have cast their cares upon the Lord, but now are taking them back again; trying to manufacture a result instead of waiting for the Lord’s.

Isaiah 55:10-11 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not thither, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (KJV)

The same Word that created the heavens and the earth is the same one our Lord would like to send your way today. His word says we should be instant, or ready, in season and out of season, and the Lord would like nothing better than to bless His people, which you became when you accepted salvation. Now you need to trust more in him and less in yourself.

Haggai 1:5-7 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; consider your ways. 6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earns wages earned wages to put it into a bag with holes. 7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; consider your ways. (KJV)

The previously mentioned documentary dealt with people who had been working all their lives, saving for retirement, only to find out they didn’t have much to show for it. Somehow their retirement was pilfered and they realized too late they were duped. Does this sound familiar? Are you exerting much effort and getting little in the way of results? It may be time to consider your ways because obviously they are not working anymore, are they?

Hebrews 13:8-9 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. 9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. (KJV)

Today consider your ways and ask yourself what is getting most of your attention, the carnal or the spiritual? If you are left holding an empty bag then it is quite obvious that somewhere along the line you left the Lord for a cheap imitation.

God bless dearly loved, and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.