*Monday, August 1, 2011*

**Grace Works**

Colossians 1:27-29 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (28) Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: (29) Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily. (KJV)

Understanding the mystery of the gospel allows the believer in Christ to go beyond the veil of the flesh and into a realm where you can actually experience the works of God and how it manifests in your walk. This week our goal is to point out through the Word what does, and what no longer works when dealing with salvation.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (10) But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. (KJV)

What Paul found out for himself is how to get through to our Lord and allow His Word to work in and through him as well. A staunch hardcore zealot of the Old Testament was now doing a one eighty about face concerning his outlook on salvation and how it really works. Basically Paul found that when he was weak and was no longer relying on his own strength and zeal, it then allowed the Lord to take over and do a work through him above and beyond what he could have ever asked or thought of. I personally have found out, especially in the last seven years or so, how much more of this grace works in my own walk especially as I learn to get out of the way and let the Lord have His way.

1Thessalonians 2:12-13 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. (13) For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. (KJV)

For those that truly mature in Christ they realize more and more that our Lord did everything needed for us to be an active participant of salvation. Your faith is developed by what you hear personally from the Lord, and you are no longer relying on mans interpretation to get the results our Lord intended for you. I mean after all, if you are not experiencing the Lord on a daily basis then eventually you will end up looking elsewhere for peace and contentment.

Philippians 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (13) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. (KJV)

Here is your bottom line Church, God sent His Son to die on our behalf so that we could have fellowship restored again with Him. You now have access to God who is not just sitting somewhere up in heaven, but His Word is actually working in you so that you can do what He planned for you before the foundation of the world. With a plan like that which is based on grace, what could possibly go wrong?

2 Timothy 1:9-11 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (10) But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: (11) Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. (KJV)

Well the answer is simple concerning what could possibly go wrong, and that wrong stuff is on our end. The only thing holding God back or not allowing Him to work on our behalf is our self and our carnal way of thinking. Our God is a God of grace and love, and left nothing to chance; that is why He sent His Son who is still there working on our behalf. Is grace working in your life today?