*Thursday, April 10, 2014*

**Living Sacrifice**

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (KJV)

Our Lord shows us what it takes to get from this life to the eternal one. We see our Lord dying on a cross which symbolizes what we have to do to make it home. It will take suffering on our part, however, the reward for those that are willing to endure their own cross is eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:15-17 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. 16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. (KJV)

Being a living sacrifice means that you die to the outward, so that you can see within. What you find is that everything you thought you knew about our Lord was based on your limited carnal mind and not the mind of Christ. We talked yesterday about relationships and how we have been taught to handle them especially with people we were closest to. What you see now is that when you look to the inward man, Christ within you, you see what is really going on and how He would have you handle them. As we see above, it was our Lord that died for all mankind so that all mankind would live unto Him. Sometimes we still try to influence those we are close to by what we think needs to be changed in them; most of the time we do more harm than good by enabling them because we are too emotionally attached to them and the situation.

Colossians 3:1-4 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (KJV)

Notice when Christ makes Himself known and apparent in one’s life? It’s when you die to the flesh and become a living sacrifice. When you make Him your first priority then He makes you His. If you don’t sense your prayers are being answered or your life seems a bit stale, you will find the issue is not on our Lord’s end.

Hebrews 4:9-11 There remains therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. 11 Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. (KJV)

The only work or labor of love that is left for us is, to get out of the way so that Christ can have His way. Salvation works when you are willing and obedient to what our Lord is asking, and not man.

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