*Monday, April 25, 2011*

**Maintaining A Low Profile**

Proverbs 16:18-19 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. (19) Better it is to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. (KJV)

In the outward realm we are aware of the fact that summer is always a precursor to fall. In the realm of the Spirit a haughty or high minded person is headed for a fall, and if not brought into check it will lead to destruction. People get to full of themselves sometimes, and think that God would not be able to function without their help. You will find these people standing behind pulpits with their larger than life ministries thinking God equates success with big numbers. The reality with these people is that they end up spending more time pleasing the people with their ear tickling feel good messages, which may sound good to the outward man however it is poisonous to the inward one.

Luke 17:7-10 But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? (8) And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? (9) Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. (10) So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do. (KJV)

Luke 17:10

[Are unprofitable servants] We have conferred no favor. We have "merited" nothing. We have not "benefited" God, or laid him under "obligation." If he rewards us, it will be matter of unmerited favor. This is true in relation to Christians in the following respects:

1. Our services are not "profitable" to God <Job 22:2>; he "needs" not our aid, and his essential happiness will not be increased by our efforts.

2. The grace to do his will comes from him only, and all the praise of that will be due to him.

3. All that we do is what is our "duty;" we cannot lay claim to having rendered any service that will "bind" him to show us favor; and

4. Our best services are mingled with imperfections. We come short of his glory <Rom. 3:23>; we do not serve him as sincerely, and cheerfully, and faithfully as we ought; we are far, very far from the example set us by the Savior; and if we are saved and rewarded, it will be because God will be merciful to our unrighteousness, and will remember our iniquities no more, <Heb. 8:12>. (from Barnes' Notes)

Now folks we don’t serve a dictator of a God, however, it is a good reminder for us to keep in mind where we came from and what got us access into the kingdom of God in the first place; which can easily be summed up in one word, grace. Sometimes people just plain get to full of themselves, and forget how weak and feeble we really are without the Lord. Others think that our Lord owes them something.

Luke 18:10-14 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. (11) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. (12) I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. (13) And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (KJV)

Do take notice that in the end of verse 14 it is up to us the individual to humble ourselves in order to maintain that low profile that our Lord desires of us.