*Thursday, December 12, 2013*

**Old and New**

1 Corinthians 1:14-16 I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; 15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. 16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. (KJV)

Now I know as we have gone along this week the thought comes to mind, “didn’t the disciples baptize in the book of Acts”? Yes they did, but remember that this was a time of reformation and many of the disciples were in the process of transitioning from the old to the new. Paul realized that salvation is based on grace through faith and not of works, thus the reason why this man wrote so many of the epistles which are now part of the New Testament.

1 Corinthians 1:17-18 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. (KJV)

Paul realized that the outward baptism was John’s baptism, you know John the Baptist? Paul was revealing the new baptism of our Lord, which is the cross of Christ. Keep in mind Church that the cross of Christ is a spiritual one and not an outward one. Also know that this cross is a personal one that each and every believer needs to take up in order to walk with our Lord. The so called church has this backwards; they think this dying to self stuff is foolish so they decide to pour water over someone thinking that is spiritual.

Matthew 16:24-26 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. 26 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? (KJV)

In verse 24 we see our Lord speaking to the disciples about taking their own cross and following Him. Well, we know that our Lord was the only one crucified, so obviously this cross was symbolizing something that would be taking place spiritually. Note that this statement was made before our Lord’s crucifixion.

Philippians 3:17-19 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) (KJV)

Many today are enemies of the cross of Christ because they don’t have their spiritual senses exercised enough to know the difference between flesh and Spirit. Many today are still trying to appease the outward man more than the inward one and base their salvation more on feelings rather than letting the peace of God rule.

Galatians 6:12-15 As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. 14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. 15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availed any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. (KJV)

Today I get a lot of flak from people who swear up and down that you must be water baptized or you won’t go to heaven. Paul got the same reception with the doctrine of circumcision. All these rituals were Old Testament and are outdated; all our Lord is looking at today is the new creation in Christ that we should become, which will only manifest when we take up the cross of Christ and die to those things which He says are a hindrance to our walk today.

Dearly loved, take up your cross and follow our Lord Christ Jesus in a prosperous and fulfilled walk in the Spirit this day. God bless.