*Friday, October 8, 2010*

**Rock Of Ages**

Matthew 16:20-23 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. (21) From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. (22) Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. (23) But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. (KJV)

The Bible says that when we are in Christ all things become new, and that we no longer are to know no man after the flesh. Case in point, as we see in verse 23 that even though Peter was considered close to our Lord, once he decided to put his own desires before the Lord’s our Lord put him in his place, not mincing His words. You will find in your walk with the Lord that as you move on and grow in Christ not everyone that you knew before your conversion is going to be on board with your new found life, but rather many will be offended and may consider you a bit odd. Many that you were close to in your past will be looking for you to fall, or come back around to their fallen way of thinking. It is at that point that you will have to decide if you are going to please man or God.

Luke 8:19-21 Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press. (20) And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. (21) And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it. (KJV)

If you notice, our Lord clearly spells out the difference between the carnal and the Spiritual. You will also notice that his carnal family was on the outside, while His Spiritual family was inside hearing the message first hand. Our Lord was quite clear on who His real family in Christ is, because many times you will see in the gospels that His own family was not always on board with what He was doing, and they thought that He was a bit odd at times. Sound familiar? Are you clear on who your real family is, or are you still trying to please and appease those that are on the outside as well? Remember that thing about evil communications and what it does to good morals?

Matthew 10:32-34 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. (33) But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. (34) Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. (KJV)

Again take notice of what happens when you start confessing Christ, and who He really is and what it takes to be one of His disciples. You see the sword of the Spirit coming along and cutting or separating what is of God and what is not. As you will find out in the verses coming up, this is a sword that cuts deep, but for good reason.

Matthew 10:35-38 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. (36) And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. (37) He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (38) And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. (KJV)

Many times while watching people getting interviewed, when asked about members of their own families they have a tendency to well up with tears and get a bit emotional. You will find that in your walk with the Lord that sometimes those that you were close to in your past life are not of benefit to your new one in Christ. If you are not willing to take up this cross, and die to these people that may be foes instead of a benefit to your life in Christ, then you will find yourself dead in the water and no longer moving forward in your walk with the Lord. Are you willing to put all or anyone behind you, so that you can see clearly what the Lord has in front of you?

John 10:7-9 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. (8) All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. (9) I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. (KJV)

In conclusion this week, we see that there is a lot more involved with the revelation of Christ, and the name which is above all names. You find that anything or all things you used to put ahead of the Lord was robbery, robbing the Lord of the opportunity to work in your life. As a true follower of Christ who is now considered one of His sheep, you hear His voice and no longer follow the voice of the thief who is doing all he can to rob you of your heavenly reward and all the Spiritual blessings that you have been blessed with in Christ. Have you entered in by the door? Well, only if you leave the old behind will you be able to fit through and stay in good standing with Him. God bless true Church in Christ, and let the Lord lead and guide you this day from this present evil world.