*Tuesday, December 31, 2013*

**Salvation**

Matthew 22:11-14 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he says unto him, Friend, how came thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 For many are called, but few are chosen. (KJV)

As we go along this week I want to share some of my own personal experiences of what salvation means to me, and what I have discovered along the way. I recently went back to my old neighborhood where I was raised and it brought back a lot of memories of what life was like before my conversion in Christ. I remember how I got hit with what I call friendly fire from those I was close to and from those that claimed to be of God, but were not. In fact I was determined not to be like the many; instead I decided to join the ranks of the few, even though I didn’t have a clue what I was stepping into.

Matthew 24:10-13 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (KJV)

I found salvation to be more of an endurance race, where I not only had to begin in the Spirit, but would have to hold fast to the end to be saved. Many are heading in the wrong direction because they really never understood the love of God personally, and all that He did on their behalf; and so many think they are doing things for His sake thinking He needs our help, when He is perfectly capable.

I John 4:1-3 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know you the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. (KJV)

Many think that just because someone has a degree and a big following it makes them successful with our Lord; bigger is not always better. The opposite tends to be true because when I tested the spirit to see what doctrine they were preaching, it didn’t line up with the doctrine of Christ. I then had to make a choice of who I was going to please, God or man.

Matthew 7:21-23 Not everyone that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (KJV)

The majority doesn’t rule when it comes to salvation. My salvation was based on doing the will of God and not just talking about it like many others. I decided I wanted to eliminate the question marks that we see in the above verses so that I wouldn’t get turned away at the door when it is time to enter into my eternal reward.

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter you in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads unto life, and few there be that find it. (KJV)

What I have discovered along the path of life is that it is not as wide as man claims it is; salvation is based on God’s plan and not man’s. Salvation is not based on how nice you are; it’s a plan based on grace through faith and not of works.

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