*Thursday, January 5, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: (27) But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. (KJV)

A prize fighter, one who is considered a contender for the title, is not one you see that is out of shape, rather is one who works out on a daily basis. Those fighters that just show up in the gym on the day of the fight, you know like many Christians who just show up on Sundays, don’t usually last too long and will tire out quickly.

Revelation 3:15-16 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. (16) So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. (KJV)

Wow, something left a bad taste in our Lord’s mouth and got spewed out rather quickly. Ever see a prize fight where the fighters show up out of shape and don’t even put up much of a fight? Yeah the crowd boos and a lot of nasty things get spewed forth by many who are demanding a refund. Our Lord doesn’t appreciate a half hearted effort by His people, because He gave a whole hearted one to get them back in good standing with our Father. I mean, if you went to a restaurant and ordered a hot meal only to have it show up lukewarm, well I am sure you would send it back in a hurry.

Revelation 3:17-19 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: (18) I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. (19) As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. (KJV)

Ever see boxing movies where the mangers push their fighters a bit, trying to get the best out of them? Well our Lord does the same with His people when he sees them get too self reliant, leaning back to their own understanding. You may get the outward looking good to mankind, but our Lord looks inwardly at the heart and the motive of it, and would desire to see a more whole hearted effort from His people.

Colossians 3:23-25 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; (24) Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. (25) But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. (KJV)

I think of the Rocky movies when looking above, and think of the times when his heart just wasn’t into it and how he would get a beat down. The enemy would like nothing better than to see God’s people lulled into a spiritual stupor, letting their guard down and leaving a wide open target. So let’s get back into our spiritual gyms and start working up a sweat and turning up the heat again toward our Lord.