*Friday, January 6, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

James 5:15-16 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. (16) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (KJV)

Strongs definition for ‘fervent’:

1754 energeo (en-erg-eh'-o); from 1756; to be active, efficient: KJV-- do, (be) effectual (fervent), be mighty in, shew forthself, work (effectually in).

So do you consider yourself a contender, one who is actively getting the results from above, or are you shadow boxing, beating the air? Again we see what it takes to be in good standing with our Lord, and not as lukewarm and lackadaisical as many others are whose love for the Lord has cooled off a bit because they are pursuing a different love.

James 4:1-4 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? (2) Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. (3) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. (4) Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (KJV)

If you were engaged to someone and found out that they were living in adultery, you sure wouldn’t go through with the wedding. Well, neither is our Lord going to either if someone who pledged their love and affection to Him ends up cheating. These fights and wars, yeah sad to say it happens with many of God’s people, who instead of letting the truth set them free they end up all entangled and caught up again in the world’s system and fallen ways. Instead of fighting the good fight of faith they end up fighting against the Lord and the prize that He had waiting for them.

John 18:35-36 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? (36) Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. (KJV)

Do you know the difference between what is of God and what is of the world? Pick your battles, and keep your body in subjection to the Spirit of God so that your love for Him doesn’t cool off and you pursue some cheap lifeless thrill.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. (7) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (KJV)

In conclusion this week, God’s word and plan of salvation is simple and is there for the taking, it’s the desire to continue in it which is up to you the individual believer in Christ to determine for yourself. My prayer for all is that they can make the same statements someday that Paul did when getting ready to depart from this world. Kind of like a prize fight that goes to the judge, knowing that you have won a unanimous decision.