*Thursday, February 2, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

Luke 6:22-23 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. (23) Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets. (KJV)

Ever hear that term “for God’s sake what were you thinking”? When you get opposition from a fallen mankind because they would rather hold to the Son of man rather than seeking the Son of God don’t take it personal, or when they think it strange concerning the doctrine of truth that you are bringing forth.

1 Peter 4:12-14 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (13) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. (14) If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. (KJV)

Peter himself realized that even though he gave our Lord a hard time about the crucifixion stuff, in the end he realized that he had to take up his own spiritual cross and die to his own carnal desires in order to see and understand who Christ really is and what His kingdom is all about. As we see again we are encouraged not to take this stuff personal or think some strange event just took place; rather how about considering it just another day at the Lord’s office? Again we see the word ‘joy’ used, even though it may not seem like such a joyous event when these sufferings take place.

2 Timothy 3:12-14 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (13) But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. (14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (KJV)

The deceptions are only going to get worse people, and so will the persecution because the majority would rather hold to just the outward realm of man rather than seeking to feed the inward new creation. Despite this, we are encouraged to continue and not draw back or retreat, but rather continue to bring sound doctrine.

Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (KJV)

Try not to make the mistake of taking this fight into the realm of man, rather realize that it is not man but spiritual wickedness that we are engaging with. In other words, don’t put a carnal face on a spiritual opponent of our Lord.