*Thursday, February 16, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (KJV)

Salvation is a free gift that was provided by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ so that He could take over in our lives and show us the path and the works that God ordained for us to walk in before the foundation of the world. Whatsoever is outside the realm of faith is considered sin, which then puts one back under the curse, and that is not where His people belong.

Colossians 2:13-15 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; (14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (15) And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (KJV)

The handwriting and ordinances that were against us, and what our Lord considers contrary, is the works of the old law which have been taken out of the way for good reason Church. So why do so many of God’s people put works back into play and basically nail the Lord back to the cross again? Wouldn’t that be telling God that His Son is a fraud and that He didn’t do a complete work to redeem us back?

Ephesians 1:12-14 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. (13) In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (14) Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. (KJV)

You know, if you put your first trust in Christ, yeah then you wouldn’t be caught up in these silly lifeless dead end rituals which deadbeats still keep in play. The word ‘earnest’ refers to a down payment, which our Lord paid in His blood. In fact our Lord considers us His purchased possession, and some day He expects to collect on His investment. In other words, He did His part and now He expects us to follow through with our commitment in order to get a full reward.

Matthew 24:11-13 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)

Will you endure to the end, or are you just a fair weather friend that when the weather got a bit cold and tough, well you had enough? What kind of person will you present to the Lord in the end when He comes to check on His investment?