*Friday, March 23, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

2 Timothy 4:3-5 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (5) But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. (KJV)

We have been on the topic this week about feeding the flock of God, and how to do it the way He intended. Now do notice that as we go along and are nearing the end that there are many who will not endure sound doctrine, rather they will be looking for a more sugar coated doctrine instead of something healthy.

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. (KJV)

I recently saw a pastor who was a bit down and out, to the point of depression, because his numbers were not growing as far as church attendance was concerned. It’s not about numbers people; in other words, it’s not about quantity but rather quality, feeding the flock solid food. Yeah I know that it is not the Lord’s will that any should perish, however, you will find that many are holding more to their own carnal desires and less to our Lord’s.

2 Timothy 3:13-15 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; (15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (KJV)

Keep coming to the Lord like a child, with that humble attitude that you had when you were a lamb. You will find that the more you teach solid doctrine based on truth, the more you will find many disguised as empty seats in your congregation. After all, how many showed up when it came time for the crucifixion of our Lord?

Revelation 3:2-3 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. (3) Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. (KJV)

We have many today who are on spiritual life support, who have remained with our Lord but haven’t been fed solid food or doctrine, which is why they are about ready to die. They haven’t learned to feed themselves either because they base things more on outward appearance rather than on the inward one where our Lord is working.

John 6:65-67 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. (66) From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. (67) Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? (KJV)

Our Lord delivered quite an effective message and was able to feed the flock, and yet with that said, many decided to turn away and walk no more with Him. So if you are feeding the flock of God and notice the numbers dwindling don’t take it personal, rather consider yourself in good company.

2 Timothy 4:16-17 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. (17) Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. (KJV)

Empty seats are a result of empty hearts that would rather be filled with carnal things than spiritual. Paul was used of God and knew how to feed the flock, and look at the following he had. Today we have many who judge by outward appearances rather than inward, and would consider Paul a failure. However, God didn’t think that way.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 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)

Do you desire to be crowned someday with an eternal reward? Then learn to feed yourself with some truth, and then hear our Lord on how to feed His flock. Remember, in order to keep it you will have to give it away. God bless Church, and chow down on some truth.