*Monday, September 10, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

Proverbs 3:33-35 The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just. (34) Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly. (35) The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools. (KJV)

This week will be a bit of a reminder, a refresher course on what got us started on the path of life and what will keep us on the straight and narrow. Sometimes a Christian can get on a roll so to speak and forget what manner of man they really are. We can have a tendency to think a bit more highly of ourselves until we realize that the next promotion I have to look forward to is shame.

Psalms 39:4-6 LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. (5) Behold, thou hast made my days as a handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah. (6) Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. (KJV)

Basically put, the opposite of grace is disgrace, or another way of putting it is vain or vanity. Man left to his own devices is just a waste of time; empty, worthless which is what vain refers to. Without a divine plan for your life and then following through with it in your walk as well as talk will make your life empty, without positive results. When you realize how frail and weak you really are on your own without the Lord is when you begin to comprehend the reality of salvation, a plan best summed up in one word, grace.

Proverbs 13:10-13 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. (11) Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase. (12) Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life. (13) Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. (KJV)

I have found that I can be my own worst enemy anytime I step out of grace which is what happens just before my fall, pride. If I forget what manner of man I really am or try to be someone I am not then my time here on earth will have been wasted. However, if I am willing to turn my life and will over to the Lord then I can walk a path of life that will eventually be rewarded for eternity; that simple and yet so complicated when I try to add or diminish from our Lord’s plan.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. (2) Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity. (3) What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun? (KJV)

I find it interesting that God took the wisest and richest man of the Old Testament and gave him everything his heart desired, and even some things God didn’t approve of were dabbled with and yet in the end the simple conclusion was vanity. Someday when you stand before God I am sure that you don’t desire to look back and say vanity, vanity what a waste of time when God had a gracious path for me to walk on which He mapped out for me before the foundation of the world.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (KJV)

So who had the most influence in your walk today, the old carnal nature or are you giving ear to the grace of God?