*Friday, September 14, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

John 1:15-17 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, this was he of whom I spoke, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. (16) And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace. (17) For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (KJV)

What kind of message are you delivering today; and what answer are you giving to any man that would ask the reason of the hope within you; is it one of grace and truth, or are you still one of those ritualistic religious deadbeats? Well, you are not going to be able to give the message of grace unless you are actually walking in it and have an understanding that salvation truly is not of works, which is why none of us can boast.

Romans 9:21-24 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? (22) What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: (23) And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, (24) Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? (KJV)

God made the rules concerning salvation and decided that it would operate according to grace. God didn’t purposely make a vessel unto dishonor, He is just longsuffering enough to let man make his own choice, then either live or die by it. God was longsuffering with us as well because His Son chose to die for us while we were yet sinners.

Psalms 145:8-9 The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. (9) The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. (KJV)

Some people compare our God to those of this world who are dictators, looking to inflict punishment anytime they can. Our God is not like that, rather He is considered longsuffering towards us. The more you realize the love and grace that is bestowed upon you the more effective you will be in your walk.

Colossians 1:9-12 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; (10) That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; (11) Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; (12) Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: (KJV)

The purpose this week is to show us that power and strength comes from God and He is the only one that can show us how to be fit and partakers of His inheritance. The more you realize the grace of God the more pleasing you will be in our Lord’s sight.

Romans 2:4-6 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (5) But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; (6) Who will render to every man according to his deeds: (KJV)

I find it interesting that man will suffer the wrath of God when they decide that their deeds are more important than our Lord’s, which can be easily summed up as self righteous. So remember Church, it is the goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering of God that allowed you access into His grace. Anything else is a disgrace.