*Tuesday, September 25, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

Joel 2:17-19 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? (18) Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. (19) Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen: (KJV)

Another one of the attributes of our Lord is pity for His people, which one of the definitions of pity means to be compassionate. The more you realize the love and compassion our Lord has for you the more it will eliminate some of the guilt you still carry around with you from your past.

2 Corinthians 11:1-3 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. (2) For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. (3) But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (KJV)

When you see Paul refer to jealousy you see God’s compassion pouring out through this man because He could see them falling for false doctrines rather than being embraced with the love of God. He could see the people being duped by the devils false prophets who were bringing a false doctrine that was missing the simplicity of the gospel of Christ. Basically what God was speaking through Paul was “hey people, this is not the lifestyle I had my Son die for”.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God; let us hold fast our profession. (15) For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (KJV)

Thayers definition for ‘touched’:

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1) to be affected with the same feeling as another, to sympathize with

2) to feel for, to have compassion on

You know, instead of trying to hide things from God why not open up and be honest with Him so that He can show you His way of escape and how to overcome these areas that keep you in bondage. Our Lord would love to embrace His people and show them some compassion, but many times we think He just doesn’t understand or we just blew it way too many times. The reason we keep falling is that we don’t ask for his help because we think it is just unforgivable or to silly for Him to deal with. By being up front with our Lord it builds a trust and confidence or boldness if you would, so that you will go to the throne in time of need rather than looking back to the world for the solution.

Hebrews 2:14-18 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (15) And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (16) For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. (17) Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. (18) For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted. (KJV)

So folks do take comfort in the fact that we serve a God of love who sent us His Son, who knows us because He lived a life in this realm without sin; and is ready, willing, and more than able to show you how to overcome as well. To sum it all up in one word, compassionate.