*Tuesday, July 16, 2013*

**Vanity**

2 Timothy 2:15-16 Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. (KJV)

Whenever you see that word vain or vanity it is associated with the term empty or worthless. The enemy cannot pull you out of the kingdom of God physically; however, he tries to get people duped into wrestling with flesh and blood, people and issues, things that are of no importance as far as the kingdom of God is concerned. It is up to you personally to get to know God and His voice so that you can discern between what is of God, and what is not. Pick your battles so to speak so that you are not like a prize fighter expending a lot of energy throwing a punch, but never hitting your target.

2 Timothy 2:3-5 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. 5 And if a man also strives for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. (KJV)

Imagine entering the ring getting ready for your match and being tangled in your robe and unable to get free. We all desire to be crowned someday, but that will only take place for those that live the way the Lord intended; in spirit and in truth. A fighter not only knows how to throw a punch, but as verse 3 states sometimes we need to know how to take a punch and keep our feet. It’s really easy to accept the blessings and enjoy them, but persecutions are a part of the package as well.

John 18:35-36 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? 36 Jesus answered, my kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. (KJV)

If you notice the Lord didn’t get pulled into something that His Father wasn’t asking of Him because He knew the difference between what was of God and what was of man. The Lord also knew that some of these people were not seeking a closer relationship with His Father, rather they were just looking for something to pin on Him, and given the fact that this man lived a life without sin it would have been difficult to say the least. Ask yourself honestly today ‘are some of the things that I get worked up and irked by really worth it?’

Matthew 26:50-52 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him. 51 And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. 52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. (KJV)

Take note that if you get too caught up in something the Lord is not asking you to pursue you to will not last. Many of God’s people perish for lack of knowledge because they don’t know how to discern, or rightly divide the word of truth.

Dearly loved, don’t let your labor of love today be in vain by getting entangled in the affairs of this life; instead rightly divide what is of truth and what is not. God bless and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.