



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – April 20, 2008

Heart to Heart...

People pervert Scriptures! Some of the most sincere, religious people can pervert God's word. They did it in the first century and nothing has changed. *"As also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of Scriptures, to their own destruction."* (II Peter 3:16) Those that are *untaught* and *unstable* always distort Scriptures and it will be to their own destruction. The untaught are those who have no insight to the truth of God's word because truth is not important to them. They pull from this verse and that verse, never keeping in mind the context that is written which makes a tragic abuse of God's word. The unstable come and go like the wind blowing paper or someone going up and down with the tide. They do a great disservice to the word of God. They distort it, twist it, dislocating it from the Scriptures to make it say what they want it to say. They use this twisted thinking about the Lord and His word, putting on an act of godliness. They are good talkers! The majority of time they do not stick around very long. As quick as they arrived, they are gone.

Twisting, turning Scripture into what one wants to believe seems to be the norm. You can really hear it with all the end time prophecy how disjointed much of the teaching is. People seem to care little about context of what is being discussed. That's where all the perversion comes from and I am afraid it is happening more and more in the church of our Lord. I try very diligently to keep things in context to learn the truth. Listen to this account taken from *Christianity Today*: "Arrested in Olathe, Kansas, for possession of marijuana, Herb Overton based his defense on Genesis 1:29, *'and God said...I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth...'* Judge Earl Jones doubted Overton's hermeneutics however. According to a Chicago Tribune account, the judge told the Bible-quoting defendant: *"As a mere mortal, I am going to find you guilty of possession of marijuana. If you want to appeal to a higher authority, that's fine with me!"*

The *untaught* and *unstable* distort the Scriptures! They abuse God's word to fit their own thought process. Their will be a high price to pay and that is their souls doomed in eternity. I had a lady in Christ tell me that there are times it is alright to lie! She said if someone was after her life, you could lie to protect her as that is what Abraham did with Sarah (Genesis 20). A complete misrepresentation and abuse of Scripture. *"But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolater and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."* (Revelation 21:8) It says *"all liars"*.

We need to be a people who love the Scriptures and treat them with reverence and respect. We need hearts to heed and listen carefully to God's word, holding it fast keeping things in context. Paul instructed the preacher Timothy, *"...accurately handling the word of truth."* (II Timothy 2:15) It takes a humble and honest heart to handle God's word of truth accurately. Listen, be still and take advantage of every opportunity to grow and gain insight. Remember, we do not know it all! With these attitudes, the Lord will provide the insight to the truth. Think about it!!!

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