



"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 – July 27, 2008

Heart to Heart...

Everyone seems to be looking for answers! People are searching, seeking for the meaning to life yearning for happiness. Many speak about God having a plan for them but never seem to arrive at anything. What is missing? Why all the searching?

Some want to "feel" spiritual and off they go chasing their fleshly desires only to gain strength in their flesh. They search for it in "Christian Music" and "Christian Radio" thinking that is what brings about spiritual changes and demonstrates a spiritual life. (I am not saying I am against such things. I'm simply making a teaching point.) In all this, truth is ignored and no real sense of what being spiritual really means. Everyone talks and freely offers their thinking about what is spiritual and what they deem as being involved in the things of God but it seems so few listen. What is missing? Why all the searching?

Let me see if I can give a little insight and direction without creating more confusion or questions. It was God's pleasure that all the fullness of Himself would dwell in Christ (Colossians 1:19). God's fullness is found nowhere else other than in Christ. It was through Christ that God would reconcile all things back to Himself. It was through Christ's blood that makes for our peace. (Colossians 1:20). The brethren at Corinth were striving for answers everywhere other than Christ and the apostle Paul had to bring them back to the cross. The Galatian brethren were bringing in other ideas and teachings putting them alongside the cross to look spiritual. All they found was separation and condemnation from Jesus. The apostle Paul brought them back to the purpose of the cross. The church at Ephesus was warned about following the world and their answers for their lives (Ephesians 4:17-19) and had to be told that turning to those separated from Christ could not offer them any answers from God. Here is what was said to the Colossian brethren, "*These are matters which, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.*" (Colossians 2:23) All the first century preachers/teachers and apostles knew Jesus and Him crucified was the answer, the ONLY answer to life. In Jesus is life (John 1:3)! In Jesus one can be complete (Colossians 2:10)! There are no other sources and no other ways to find happiness, peace and spiritual growth. Other sources are not from God! They are only "*appearances of wisdom in self-made religion!*"

What are the answers for our lives? Jesus and Him crucified! All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Him (Colossians 2:3). If all the above is true, and it is, why would we go chasing after someone's idea how to solve our problems or be more spiritual? All other sources are man instituted and man made. Only God can bring about life and the answer to life. Only God can grow people to being more spiritual. Only in Christ is where all spiritual blessings are found (Ephesians 1:3). If we chase other avenues, we will cut ourselves off from the very heart of God and we will be left on our own devices and thoughts. Where do you look for your answers? Think about it!!!

Brent