



"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 – December 21, 2008**

## Heart to Heart...

I heard sometime back someone say that the reason for all the denominations is because in the first century, the church was an infant and it had to grow and change with time. The result: many denominations because the church was growing up! What a sad state of deception for someone to believe that. ***"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."*** (Proverbs 14:12) People think of all sorts of things when it comes to God and what is right. The danger is whatever you believe, you need to be aware that the end result could be deception and death! How does one determine if we are on a path of death or life? It must be absolutely from the truth and the truth cannot be established upon what "seems right" or what is reasoned in the mind of an individual. Jesus came to testify to the truth (John 18:37), which teaches us it is available only one way and that is through Jesus.

To find the truth, one must have a willing heart to look to God's word for the answers. People say they find the truth of God in nature and see the truth of God in creation. Nature does not tell us who God is nor can it direct our lives! It reveals the power of God and His invisible attributes (Romans 1), but nature cannot bring you closer or into a relationship with God. Jesus said in His prayer before His death, ***"Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth."*** (John 17:17) The truth is the only way to be sanctified (set apart to God) and can only be found in His word. Our drawing near to God is only through Jesus (Hebrews 7:25).

To find the truth, you must desire it! Your heart has to be willing and wanting the truth on God's terms. That means facing up to some things you may wrongly believe. When Paul went to Berea, the Berean's ***"received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so."*** (Acts 17:11) They didn't just accept what Paul said about God, they desired to know for certain the truth in light of what the Scriptures taught. How many of us just accept what someone says without investigating it from God's holy word?

To find the truth, you must love the truth. Paul warned the Thessalonians that those who perish will do so because ***"they did not receive a love of the truth so as to be saved."*** (II Thessalonians 2:10) We must love the truth in order not to perish.

To find the truth, we must live the truth as revealed. Jesus said not everyone who calls Him Lord will be in heaven but those who do the will of the Lord (Matthew 7:21-23). The desire for God's will must be at our heart, not following our own selfish desires or wants. We must live our lives according to the will of God. Think about it!!!

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