



"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 12, 2009

## Heart to Heart...

***"What the wicked fear will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted."*** (Proverbs 10:24) There is a definite difference between the wicked and the righteous in God's eyes. They both anticipate something: (1) The wicked always anticipates the worst in situations. (2) The righteous anticipates the best because even in difficulties that go against them, it will be for good. The wicked have lots of fears because they have no foundation or assurances from the Lord and they know it. The righteous have an everlasting foundation and assurances which eliminates their fears. They simply trust the Lord with all their heart.

How does God define the wicked? First, we must realize we are all sinners (Romans 3:23). Coming to Christ in faith and being baptized into His name gave us the righteousness of God. With this in mind, let's look at some verses in Proverbs. ***"Because I called, and you refused; I stretched out my hand, and no one paid attention; and you neglected my counsel, and did not want my reproof."*** (Proverbs 1:24-25) The wisdom of God is speaking here. When God instructs and people refuse to take His instruction in wisdom, it leaves them without answers. There is something headed their way: ***"I will even laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, when your dread comes like the storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you."*** (Proverbs 1:26-27) A wicked person will take little instruction from God. They take no correction and when troubles hit their lives (and it will somewhere), they will be left hurting and without answers. ***"He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, and he who reproves a wicked man gets insults for himself."*** (Proverbs 9:7) A wicked person will not take godly counsel but will insult the very one who is trying to help.

How does God define the righteous? ***"But he who listens to me shall live securely, and shall be at ease from the dread of evil."*** (Proverbs 1:33) The righteous always turn their ears to the Lord, listening to his voice for their guidance. ***"Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning."*** The righteous are willing and wanting to gain insight from the Lord. They only become more secure and stable. ***"He who walks in his uprightness fears the Lord, but he who is crooked in his ways despises Him."*** (Proverbs 14:2) The righteous have a fear and reverence for the Lord.

Remember, the fears of the wicked, it will happen to them! They will be left hurting and crying out in time of trouble. The righteous will live in assurances and find comfort in time of their need. God knows the difference between the wicked and the righteous and you can take that to the bank! Think about it!!!

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