



"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 – June 28, 2009

Heart to Heart...

Many believe in the doctrine, "*Once saved, always saved!*" I had a friend of mine tell me once the reason they believed in this doctrine because it gave them the privilege of doing whatever they wanted because they could never be lost. It is a doctrine of convenience but is not according to Christ. It is nothing more than an empty deception created by man. (Colossians 2:8) Paul warned the Galatian brethren they could fall from God's grace. (Galatians 5:4)

How do we keep ourselves from being trapped and taken captive by the traditions of men and all the elementary principles of the world? By being filled with the knowledge of God's will with spiritual wisdom and insight (Colossians 1:9-12). Spiritual wisdom and knowledge can only come from a spiritual source. Man confuses the spiritual with their fleshly ideas and thoughts and cannot tell the difference between the two. To gain spiritual wisdom and insight, one must look completely and only to Christ and His word, without diluting it with man's philosophy and twists (Colossians 2:1-3). That's why Paul said that he proclaims Christ only and teaches every man with all wisdom that comes from Christ (Colossians 1:28). If we mix the world's ideas or thinking with Christ's, He is no longer part of that and it will lead one into captivity. Christ will not reveal His spiritual insight to such. Paul was emphatic when he taught this (Colossians 2:4).

There was a congregation of our Lord that had gotten disgruntled in their worship. They wanted more! Someone came up with the idea of separating the men and women. They thought they could do things on a more spiritual level by doing this. (There is nothing wrong with having a class for men/women but this was their worship.) The delusion begins. It was agreed upon and then it started. The women began arguing who was going to teach among them. Some favored one over the other. Feelings were hurt and bitterness resulted. Some left the Lord and His church! Was Christ part of that? They eventually dropped the two worships. The next idea was to do away with a lot of the preaching as it was too long. It was decided to start a "*spiritual drama team!*" They thought they were spiritual the first time in their ideas. In this feelings were hurt as some thought that a few of those who were on this "*spiritual team*" were poor actors as they had decided to join in a competition against other groups in the area. Was the Lord part of that? Where do things like this take us? Where is our Lord Jesus Christ? Can you imagine the apostles having their "*apostolic drama team?*"

When brethren start looking elsewhere for spiritual insight other than Christ, *fleshliness* will always take over and Christ will withhold His wisdom from entering their minds (Colossians 2:16-19). The question that always needs to be asked is this: *Is it according to Christ?* This is how false doctrines and ideas get started by not looking **only** to Jesus.

Only in Christ does the fullness of God dwell (Colossians 2:9). In Christ Jesus we have been made complete (Colossians 2:10). In Christ He circumcised us by removing the flesh out of the way (Colossians 2:11-12). If these things are ours, why would we look to other sources and means to find a spiritual fulfillment? If we find something is amiss in our spiritual lives, Jesus hasn't changed or moved. I wonder what that tells us? Think about it!!!

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