



"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 – August 16, 2009

Heart to Heart...

People seem to get better and better at handling God's word deceitfully. It's all around us. False statements that sound good, false impressions and books galore are taking people captive. That's the devil's goal. He is a deceiver and wants to keep people from the truth of God's word. In fact, He can take the word of God from the heart of people so they can't be saved (Luke 8:12).

When people mingle the word of man with the truth of God's word, they are on the road to handling the word deceitfully. Paul penned these inspired words: ***"But we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."*** (II Corinthians 4:2) Paul made absolutely certain he did not corrupt or handle the word with any deceit. Truth was sought and maintained. The devil will try to lure us by "baits" to snare our heart. He is crafty and makes things look good. The devil deceived Eve to the utmost! He deceived David (I Chronicles 21). He entered the heart of Judas because Judas was already practicing evil. The devil can disguise himself as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:12-15). He wants to deceive each and everyone in Christ. He has no concern for the world because they are already His. He wants the people of God and will use every possible avenue at his disposal to deceive. People are deceived into thinking their relationship with the Lord is good when they have no relationship with the body of Christ, the church. People speak of loving the Lord but have no love for His brethren or never show it. People say they love the Lord but involve themselves in the pleasures and friendships of the world at the cost of their fellowship and worship of God.

The devil is powerful and wants to lead us into deception. That's why we need to put on God's armor and ***"stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace."*** (Ephesians 6:15) The devil doesn't care what you do or believe as long as it is not the truth so he can keep you from understanding. The devil doesn't care if one attends the assemblies to worship, as long as their heart is not worshipping or receptive to His teachings. There is a spiritual warfare going on and sometimes we don't realize it. Think about it!!!

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