



"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 – September 20, 2009**

## Heart to Heart...

It never ceases to amaze me how far people are removed from the power of God. I am speaking of those very religious. I was reading this week about a church in Columbia, Tennessee that is offering gas cards to all their visitors! I can hear some brethren respond, "How innovative!"

In Romans 1:16, we read, "***For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.***" How many really believe that the power of saving anyone is found in the gospel? I am so thankful for each of my brothers and sisters in Christ here that hold to God's saving power. The Lord causes our growth to continue, not because we offer some form of entertainment or we have a super program in our outreach. We simply come with one voice, the voice of God knowing it is His power to save people and that comes through His gospel. Anything less is man-made and must be maintained by man's efforts. The programs we have working are encouraging to each other to remain faithful to the calling of God.

The world we live in isn't overly interested in the gospel of God. Because of the lack of interest, people begin resorting to all sorts of worldly out-reaches to attract people. Here is what is really happening: some are making the gospel look worldlier in order to get them to show up at the assembly. Make the assemblies appeal to the lost, to attract them. The end result is fleshly minded people that move deeper and deeper into the world minded teachings, calling them spiritual, while being deceived in what is really spiritual from the Lord. The worship becomes more of an entertainment rather than God centered because the power of God has been lost and man replaces it with his own ideas.

When God told Israel about making the alter of burnt offering, which was used to offer the sin offerings and thanksgiving offerings, He let them know: "***If you make an alter of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stone, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it.***" (Exodus 20:25) Anytime man tries to improve on the power and insight to God, we end up profaning His holiness.

God doesn't need our free gas offer to help Him out. He doesn't need the games and gimmicks many want to use. God simply says the gospel is where the power is found and that should convince us to use His power to change the lives of people. When we are convinced and put our faith in the power of God to save, His gospel, it will change us personally which would make those outside more enticed to want to know what is going on in our lives! They will want to share in that. Think about it!!!

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