



"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 – October 4, 2009

Heart to Heart...

The book of Jude is a powerful letter. It consists of only twenty-five verses but filled with encouragement and warnings. It is written to *"the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ."* We are encouraged to *"contend earnestly for the faith."* This common salvation only belongs to *"the called"* and is not for all religious people. If one stops contending for the faith that was handed down to the saints or just sees religion as religion, they no longer share in a common salvation which means they are no longer *"the called."* These are sobering words spoken by Jude.

In the church (the called), there are people that have *"crept in unnoticed."* (v.4) The word *"crept"* literally means *"to enter side by side."* They are unnoticed and act like they belong. But they have not escaped the notice of God. God has marked them out for condemnation. That tells us, all who claim to be part of the church are not part of the church because they care little about *"contending for the faith."* Over the next few verses in this letter, Jude shows the great history of how God always dealt with those who had little concern for Him and the truth of His word. Our God is historic! No one escapes His notice.

How would one recognize those who *"have crept in unnoticed?"* Too many are taken in by someone's *"niceness."* Jude warns to remember the words spoken by the apostles and our Lord Jesus Christ that there will be those who follow after their own desires (v.17-18). When people follow their own desires and thinking, things start happening among brethren. First, they cause divisions (v.19)! The only thing that matters to them is them. Second, they are worldly minded! They think, act and talk like the world. Thirdly, they are devoid of the Spirit! Devoid literally means *"to be without."* If you will notice, the Spirit of God would never lead His people into divisions and worldly thinking. That's opposite of Christ. Those belonging to Christ let the things of God dwell in their minds (renew their minds) and not allow their personal likes and dislikes be the determining factor. They contend for the faith!

But this is not all that those *"who have crept in unnoticed"* practice. They are also *"grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage."* (v.16) People that speak arrogantly have no fear of what others might hear them say. They give no thought to their words in front of others. There are those who complain about things, grumble at decisions like everything revolves around them (that's their lust). God has a problem with grumblers! (Just read I Corinthians 10)

Jude writes to keep us on track. If we are baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, we are given the spiritual blessings for us to make it. The question is, are we serious about God and His word? Too many just say they believe but that is all they possess. They give little concern for the common salvation or they would not grumble, find fault, cause divisions and follow their own personal desires. Jude encourages *"the called"* to hold to the One who will keep us from stumbling and make us *"stand in the presence of His glory blameless."* (v.24) Be serious! Be sincere about the Lord's will! Think about it!!!