



"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 – December 20, 2009

Heart to Heart...

The church at Colossae needed to be re-focused on Christ. There were too many different "spiritual" ideas floating around that needed to be addressed. Instead of addressing all the different ideas, Paul simply pointed one thing out: whatever they did, make certain it is "***according to Christ.***" (Colossians 2:8). Otherwise, one can be taken captive by someone's philosophy or empty deception. There are traditions of men and elementary principles of the world that are trying to mold us into their "spiritual" concepts. Paul made certain that they realized it was Christ in you that is the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). It was Christ that was preached and taught warning man and teaching man so one can be made complete in Him (Colossians 1:28).

How does one keep from being taken captive by man's thinking and traditions? It begins by being filled with the "***knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.***" (Colossians 1:9) The ONLY way one can come to this spiritual wisdom and understanding is knowing where the true source of spiritual help comes from and it's not man! "***...resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.***" (Colossians 2:2-3). All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Jesus! Hidden!!! They aren't open to the naked eye. One must be diligent in seeking from Christ and Him alone. Just look how many are taken in by the tradition of men about this season being about the birth of Jesus. It has taken millions captive and it upsets them when you try to take it away because they are captive by it. That's not "***according to Christ.***" There is no mixing the world's beliefs, man's ideas with Christ's and still be "***according to Christ.***"

Paul writes this inspired letter from God to the saints at Colossae to teach them that Christ is all that is needed! We need to look nowhere else. The danger: "***I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.***" (Colossians 2:4) There are a lot of "***persuasive arguments***" out there and the only way one can distinguish the difference is through true spiritual knowledge and wisdom that comes only from Christ. All true knowledge and spiritual insight comes from holding to Christ, the head (Colossians 2:19). When we start looking and listening to others, you will have Christ's wisdom and knowledge withheld from you. People in the church at Colossae were substituting the worship of angels along with Christ (Colossians 2:18). Others were thinking their insight was from visions or dreams. Others acted so contrite and humble and that must be a sure sign they were on the right track. But it is pointed out, Christ was not being held to firmly. Things like the above will defraud you of the goal!

If we are struggling, looking for deepening our relationship with the Lord, look no further than the Lord Himself! He is the ONLY one that can give us true spiritual life. Hold firmly to Jesus, the head. Know the source of all spiritual wisdom and knowledge. When you are approached with ideas that sound good, you need to ask, "***Is it according to Christ?***" It might be alright according to man but what about Christ? Think about it!!!