



"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 – January 31, 2010

## ***Heart to Heart...***

God's word gives us a running history of man and man's natural desires have never change. Over and over God's prophets/preachers warned God's people that certain things would take place if the fear of the Lord is lost. Over and over God's prophets/preachers warned the consequences of listening and following the customs of the world around. What happened? People didn't heed, thought they knew better and the end results were tragic. Those who did heed found refuge and peace just as God said.

There is nothing new today. Those who live their lives under the Lordship of Jesus find power and strength, especially in difficult circumstances. Those who "act" like they love the Lord but their heart is not with Him, they eventually come to unfaithfulness in their lives. We have watched many a beloved brother or sister find their way back into the teachings and ideas of the world or be overtaken by sin. Each and every one of us are either: (1) choosing to follow Jesus with all our heart. (2) Rejecting Jesus by following our own desires. (3) Corrupting Jesus by corrupting His teachings. We fall under one of these three things. When we meet our appointment with death or Jesus returns, we will be held accountable to one of these three.

With today's media and high powered systems, people are meeting up with opportunities to hear many things. Our present day cultures, philosophies, psychology, religions and influences can create illusions that seem spiritual and godly but are just the opposite and take one into death. How can we be sure? Jesus said to strive to enter by the narrow door (Luke 13:24). That means we must look one direction only and seek the words of Jesus alone. Paul warned the Colossians that the philosophies, empty deceptions, traditions of men and the principles of the world can take us captive if we aren't careful (Col. 2:8). The answer: make certain it is according to Jesus! Jude warns to make certain we as God's people contending earnestly for the faith, holding to the teachings that were preached in the first century because there will be those among us that want to turn God's grace into something else (Jude 3-4). Peter spoke of false brethren that would malign the way of the truth (II Peter 2:1-3). Paul warned Timothy there would be those in the church who would fall away by listening to "***deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.***" (I Timothy 4:1). Still others would hold to a form of godliness but deny the power because they love other things more than Jesus (II Timothy 3:1-5).

How committed are you to Christ? Does your heart long for and hang on the word of truth? Corruption is all around and only with a 100% commitment to Jesus will we be protected. If we live for Him now, we will also live with Him forever. Think about it!!!

Brent