



"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 – March 7, 2010

Heart to Heart...

If you were asked what the mercies of God means to you, how would you respond? Would you give an answer that you knew was right and Scriptural or would you answer from your heart what God's mercies mean and the affect on your present life?

"I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." (Romans 12:1) God is the Father of mercies (II Corinthians 1:3). He brought mercies into existence. Because of the nature of God, He extends to us His mercies. We are the ones who went astray and yet God is merciful. God is rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4).

We are "*urged*" or "*beseched*" not commanded. We are asked to do the honorable thing because of the ultimate benefit extended to us. God could deal with us according to our sins but because of His mercies shown through Jesus, we need to do the honorable thing toward God. "*Present your bodies*" back to God. The idea of presenting is what the sacrifices were about under the Law. We need to offer ourselves back to God as "*living*" and "*holy*" sacrifices. Under the Law they were "*dead and holy*" sacrifices of animals. The mercies of God should mean something to our hearts to respond back to God because He didn't destroy or condemn us because of Christ Jesus. We are "*urged*" to respond back by the presenting of ourselves.

The sacrifice the true believer offers is themselves. It is a heart showing gratitude to live lives that are holy, alive and aware of God's mercies. It is lives lived acceptable to God. How do you know what is acceptable and unacceptable? Too many live their lives like the world around them. They are caught up in the practices of the world, the thinking of the world and the lack of response toward God like the world. An acceptable life is a life that is offered back to God following His will being motivated by His mercies.

This is your "*spiritual service of worship.*" The term "*spiritual*" is translated in some versions as "*reasonable.*" It tells us that the spiritual, reasonable thing to do is offer ourselves back to God as a living and holy sacrifice. This spiritual service offered to God is our worship of God not just on the first day of the week, but each day we live. It is our thoughts, our words, and our attitudes which are offered back to God because it pleases Him.

Let me ask again, what do the mercies of God mean to you? Reflect on your daily living and your attitude toward the saints and His church and you will find your answer. Think about it!!!

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