



"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 14, 2010

Heart to Heart...

Deception is all around us. People can easily be deceived. People can be taken in by a tearful moving story, false impressions and statements. The goal of the devil is to take us into deception, to get us to believe something is right when it is wrong and will use any means he can to accomplish this goal.

Recently my wife and I were watching a religious program. I came across it while changing a channel. There was a prominent religious figure preaching on heaven. He was smooth as glass and mixed a lot of comical statements in with his teachings. It looked like there were several thousand in attendance. People were locked in. He began to describe how God had taken him to heaven in a vision. (He was trying to be seen like the apostle John in Revelation or Paul. That's arrogance within itself!) He used different parts of God's word to describe what he saw and the ones that spoke to him. It was well rehearsed and stated. At times he would get people to tears, then laughter and then to seriousness. He was a false teacher and I knew it because of how he abused the word of God. But for all those people sitting, listening and being taken in, they enjoyed every minute. How could a man, so eloquent, so powerful in speaking lead people into falsehood? One cannot be led into falsehood unless they want to be led! It was all deception.

"...and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceived the hearts of the unsuspecting." (Romans 16:18) Paul is speaking about those in the church, not in religious denominations but one can see it both places. People mingle the truth of the Word with all these moving stories and notions. What is worse, brethren learn how to handle the word of God deceitfully! Paul was concerned about that: ***"But we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."*** (II Corinthians 4:2) Paul made certain they did not corrupt or handle God's word with any deceit. The devil will take God's word and get people to use it in a manner that's deceptive, twisting it to fit their personal thoughts or agenda. He is crafty and will use every means of deception to snare our hearts.

Here are a few deceptive thoughts the devil leads people into: How do people expect to be in heaven while ignoring God's will on earth? How do people believe they will be in heaven when they refuse to worship with God's people? Why do people call themselves a member of the Lord's body but have no attachment to His body? How can people say they love the Lord but have little love for His brethren?

Deception is all around us. The only cure is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind. We need to allow His word to lead us, being honest in heart while listening to His truth. We need His guidance from a pure heart so we will be able to distinguish the difference between truth and falsehood. To love the truth and seek the truth, God will make certain you stay on the right path. Think about it!!!

Brent