



"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 – September 5, 2010

Heart to Heart...

I must encourage each of us to be lovers of the truth. The truth was established from Jesus to the apostles going into all the world preaching and teaching. Jude writes about a common salvation and encourages those in that common salvation to "*contend for the faith.*" (Jude 3) The faith, the teaching that brought about this common salvation was handed down to the saints and the saints (us) need to earnestly strive for holding to the faith, that truth handed down.

We must realize that everything we believe starts with our salvation. That's the drawing line in the sand. How are people saved? How were they saved from the moment Jesus sent those men into the world? That is the truth that is first and foremost. Jesus sent those apostles out to preach the gospel message (Mark 16:15-16) and those who believed the truth of the gospel responded by being baptized into Christ Jesus *for the forgiveness of their sins* (Acts 2:37-38). Many practice baptism today, but is it the truth as to why they are being baptized? Is it faith in the gospel message tying them to Jesus? Or are they baptized for another reason? The understanding and motive is of utmost importance. In Acts 19 Paul came across 12 men who had been baptized but their baptism was tied to the understanding and teaching of John. That was the truth before the death of Jesus but once Jesus died, raised and ascended to the Father, the message of truth was tied to Jesus and His resurrection. That's the gospel message (I Corinthians 15:1-4). That's the time and point ones sins are cleansed. Those 12 men were baptized into the name of the Lord! That's where they found the "*common salvation*" Jude spoke about.

Today, there is so much floating around on our radios and televisions that deceive the hearts of people. People in general aren't seeking the truth. They are seeking religion or some type of spiritual awakening. We hear the words that if we would just receive the Lord Jesus into our hearts and say a "*sinner's prayer*", people would be forgiven and saved. Here's the truth from God's word: no one, not one person was ever saved by receiving Christ into the hearts and saying a prayer! It's not found in God's word. There is no Scripture, not one teaching that backs that up, yet how many millions of people believe it? Where did this teaching come from? Not from God or His word! That means it came from another source. They are baptized down the road after this false saving teaching. They come to baptism already thinking they are saved! Baptism is a burial of the dead person tied to sin (Romans 6). If one is saved before baptism and baptism is a burial, they are burying a live person!!! Does that make sense? It goes against the truth of Scripture.

We need to be truth lovers and seekers. The common salvation that the apostles preached and taught came from the truth. Jude said we are to strive, contend for the faith as that is the only place that a common salvation can be found. If there is no common salvation and no seeking the truth on our part, the lines get blurred and there is no standard of truth which will doom us all. The truth is what sets those truly saved apart from all the rest. Think about it!!!

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