



"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 12, 2010

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

Would you consider yourself as self-deceived? That's a rather strange question but it is one to seriously ponder. People can deceive themselves into thinking they are right with the Lord when in reality they aren't. Proverbs speaks: ***"There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, yet is not washed from his filthiness."*** (Proverbs 30:12) If that's the case, how can one be certain?

***"Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all the remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves."*** (James 1:21-22) A hearer of God's word can delude themselves. The word "*delude*" means to "deceive by false reasoning." They think they are doing well with the Lord because they believe in Him and His word, but they do not receive His word within by not acting upon what His word says. One can enjoy singing, praying and taking the Supper with other brethren at the assemblies and be dead and deceived. They may have grown up in the church and they believe their years have given them a right of passage because they know intellectually things of the Bible. How are they deceived and dead? Because they do nothing with God's word! One can hear the truth, rejoice in the truth but if it is not practiced in lives, that person is deceiving themselves. It would be like going to a restaurant and reading a menu. Until you respond and choose to move, that menu will not fill you up! There is a major difference between reading God's word and growing in the grace of God. One cannot make progress until they start "*doing*" or in other words faith responds to what you hear and read.

A self-deceived person is one who knows they aren't living rightly, doing right but continuing down their same path of living. A self-deceived person is one who knows they need to clean up their language but they continue to use language that doesn't fit Christ! A self-deceived person is one who doesn't consider what they practice and involve themselves to make certain God is glorified in their choices. To continue to live in ways, behave in ways that aren't lining up with God is the art of self-deception.

We need to practice God's word. We need to be doers of the Word and not merely hearers who sit week after week in the assemblies listening to God's word and deceiving themselves. People read through the Bible every year by following a daily reading outline. It's good to do but it is of no value if you aren't willing to put the truth of the Word actively in your life. You can feel good about reading God's word completely through but the self-deception is when you don't practice it, leaning on God to move forward and being trustworthy in your life, you are no better off spiritually. You are worse off than when you began because of the knowledge of God.

It is easy to sit and agree with the truth. The truth is not merely a formula or information we put into our minds. It is about a life that is lived. To not respond daily to God's word while following your own feelings and desires is nothing more than "*a hearer who deludes themselves.*" Think about it!!!

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