



"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 19, 2010**

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

The need for preaching will always be in demand. It seems as time moves forward and eternity draws nearer each day, the opportunity for brethren to wander astray from the truth is more easily attained. I am amazed at the number of books at the book store that are written about God, fellowship with God, prayer life, spiritual self helps, drawing from God's power, enriching our lives, godly parenting, finding God in an ungodly world, women preachers, devotional books, religious sayings, how Christian's manage money, fun times with Jesus and I know I missed a bunch. The church is hit so hard with all these writings and books that they appeal to many as a study guide. Brethren who once embraced the Lord Jesus and His truth have wandered off into false notions and teachings because of all the writings. I read a lot, but reading a book cannot be a substitute for God's word. You must be grounded and know God's word so you can discern between proper applications from men and improper applications.

There is a reason why the preacher Timothy was instructed to "***preach the word***" (II Timothy 4:1). It is the word of God that is the only hope to see the realities of spiritual truth. It is the word of God that will keep lives pure and on the path God intended. It is only the word of God that can build saving faith. With so many written manuscripts and books, people get lulled into thinking that everything is okay as long as the writers allude to God's word to prove their point. No thought if the word of God was taken out of context because we are so unfamiliar with His word. We are invited to study groups offered through our co-workers, or study evenings at different places. What do they study? Someone's book or writings or some author the people love. This has found its way into our own Bible studies on Sunday's and Wednesday's in many places. The books are sprinkled with verses from God's word which to a weak Christian, they cannot discern. Because many are failing to love God's word, to study God's word and read God's word, they fall prey to a mixture at best. What eventually happens is brethren will find people who think like they think and try to accumulate teachers that agree with them while turning their ears away from the truth of God's word (II Timothy 4:3-4). Paul warned the preacher Titus there were men that in their rebellion, were teaching things that should not be taught and were nothing but empty talkers and deceivers (Titus 1:10-11). Titus was instructed to teach things that are "***fitting for sound doctrine***." (Titus 2:1) That comes from God's word. Sound, spiritual health comes only from one source. We need to emphasize this in the Lord's church and in our bible studies.

You want to grow in the grace of God? You want to become stronger? There is only one source for that and it's God's word. Without God's word being upheld, preached, taught and desired, we will fall prey to religious teachings that could be destroying our lives because there is no understanding, no discernment and no direction! It was Jesus who said to His own apostles: "***If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word...he who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.***" (John 14:23-24) Listen, if all these books that draw people are the real answers to our lives, why do so many have to be written? Think about it!!!

Brent