



"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 – November 21, 2010

Heart to Heart...

There can never be a substitute for the preaching and teaching of God's word. Many try to substitute things in the place of preaching/teaching but not from God's throne. ***How then will they call on Him in whom they have believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?***" (Romans 10:14) One cannot come to faith without preaching/teaching of God's word. ***"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."*** (Romans 10:17) No preaching/teaching of God's word and there will be no faith. Paul made certain that when he preached to others he didn't get cute with it or make wares out of it (II Corinthians 2:17). ***"For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void."*** (I Corinthians 1:17)

God's word isn't meant to be dramatized as a play. This word people dramatize came from the throne above all mankind and creation. This word came from a Creator who keeps all things working according to His word. God expects His word to be heeded and taken seriously. To reduce God's word through man's ways is a show of disrespect and lack of reverence. What do many do? They make it funny, entertaining, fuzzy and put little twists of humor on it. God knows our faith is the most precious thing we possess and He knows the ONLY thing that can produce a life giving and saving faith is through honest preaching/teaching of His word. Too many are trying to draw people in by making God appealing to our flesh. Those people who are drawn after the entertainment and enthusiastic side end up with no saving faith but a lot of external service! To them they "feel" spiritual but it creates no staying power and stability in their life.

Every time God gave something from heaven above, man tried to corrupt it thinking we could improve on it! Even the apostle Peter tried to erect three tabernacles when witnessing Jesus' transfiguration: One for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elijah (Matthew 17:4-5). God made certain that Peter dropped that thinking quickly! I wonder what Noah did all those years of building a boat? You think he was cute with God's word or sincere and serious about the task at hand? Listen to the word of the Lord and be saved or swept away in a flood, your choice!

Preaching is difficult because of the people. Paul told Timothy that in the church, there would come a time when people no longer wanted sound doctrine but wanting teaching in accordance to their own desires (II Timothy 4:3-4). What is the preacher to do when brethren want something else? Heaven speaks: ***"Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."*** (II Timothy 4:2). We can draw in the crowds with moving and entertaining thoughts and stories but will it create a genuine, sincere faith to be saved? According to God, NO! Heaven speaks clearly. Man listens poorly. The only question is: are we listening? Think about it!!!

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