



"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 28, 2010

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

The central issue is our lives should be the Lord Jesus Christ! The central issue in the church should be the Lord Jesus Christ! Our lives aren't about us, our works, our wants or gaining recognition for the church. That makes us the central issue. The central issue is always the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Corinthian brethren had shifted from the Lord Jesus being central to man being the central and the spiritual deterioration began. Paul had to point them to return back to the Lord Jesus as central. We are reminded that our sanctification (holiness) came from Christ Jesus (I Corinthians 1:2). The grace of God was extended to them because of the Lord Jesus (I Corinthians 1:4). In the first nine verses of the letter, Jesus Christ is spoken about nine times! That should get our attention. It was in Jesus and Him alone that enriched them (I Corinthians 1:5). It was Jesus that would confirm them and make them blameless in the end (I Corinthians 1:8). It was God who chose the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ to shame the wise (I Corinthians 1:20-25). Paul made it abundantly clear that he was determined to know nothing else except Jesus and Him crucified (I Corinthians 2:2). The Lord Jesus Christ was the foundation for the spiritual existence of the church (I Corinthians 3:11-15).

The church at Colossae was a small congregation. Paul made sure they understood that Christ Jesus was to be central to them and also in churches at Laodicea and Hierapolis. It was only the word of the cross, the gospel of Jesus that was bearing fruit in any of them (Colossians 1:14). We were rescued from darkness and transferred into the kingdom of Jesus Christ where He is the only place we have redemption and the forgiveness of our sins (Colossians 1:13-14). Jesus alone is above all, before all and all things were created through Him and for Him (Colossians 1:16). The church is the Lord's creation, the result of the death and resurrected Christ which makes Him the head of His created church (Colossians 1:18). It is only in Jesus that holds everything together (Colossians 1:17). We are instructed that if we are taken captive by someone, it needs to be Jesus and Him alone and not anyone else (Colossians 2:8). What did Paul do with all this? "***We proclaim Him!***" (Colossians 1:28) Paul taught and admonished (warned) every person toward Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:28).

What should we learn from all this? We need to glorify Jesus Christ and no one else! We don't glorify the church, our outreach efforts, our members but glorify the Lord Jesus Christ! We would not exist as the church if it weren't for Him. Our efforts would be futile and meaningless if it weren't for Him. The bottom line is our lives as individuals and the church are to be to the glory of His grace (Ephesians 1:6). Anything less is not of God. Think about it!!!

Brent