



Sunday – January 2, 2011

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

Does it concern you how little emphasis people put on the truth? I know it troubles my heart. If it is our medications or results in a medical testing, we demand the truth but when it comes to the real eternal matters, people just seem so casual.

The people employed in the United States Treasury Department do not spend any time studying certain aspects of counterfeit bills and methods counterfeiters use. They know the genuine bills so well in each and every detail they can spot a counterfeit bill instantly.

We need to be the same with the truth of God's word. People don't seem overly-enthused about knowing the truth from God's word. Those types of attitudes contribute to the religious confusion we see today because people cannot determine what is right and weed out all the wrong. If we would hold to the eternal truth as revealed in the word of God, one could spot false teachings instantly when they hear it.

Jesus speaks in John 5:43-47 to the Jews who had seen Jesus cure a man. Their lack of understanding and acceptance was due to the fact they would accept man over God. They just did not have a heart for the truth as Jesus taught. They had other desires working in them that prevented them from seeing the truth. They were more concerned about friendships and man's glory than glory from God and it prevented faith from growing in them. Here they were, without the truth, without saving faith and without God and they weren't even aware what was happening to them. They believed they were alright with the Lord!

If our hearts are sensitive to the truth of God's word, it should perk up our ears when God speaks that people will perish eternally because they do not love the truth (II Thessalonians 2:10-12). What's even more troubling, God will give a person a delusion to believe a lie if the truth is not sought with all the heart. Can you imagine? Why would God do such? Because God is a giving God and He gives to each man and woman what they choose to follow. If one isn't sincere about the truth, God will help you find less than the truth and you will believe you are just fine. If the truth is of little importance, God will help you find what it is you are seeking! In the end, when one stands before God and God rejects them because they had no love for the truth, God will speak, *"I gave you what you wanted and sought."* God is serious about truth and those who genuinely seek the truth.

Our eternal salvation is serious! Salvation comes by two things: (1) Sanctification of the Spirit. (2) Faith in the truth. God calls man to Himself through the gospel for that salvation (II Thessalonians 2:13-14). That gospel must be believed and responded to by faith (Mark 16:15-16).

How do we know what is the truth? Whatever one believes, it **MUST** line up with the truth of Jesus and His apostles. We need to know the teachings so well that we could spot falsehood instantly. We need to be grounded in the truth and mature in that truth so ***"we are no longer to be children, tossed***

*here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming.*" (Ephesians 4:14) If someone asked you to teach them how to be saved, could you teach them the truth from God's word? Think about it!!!

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