



"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 – May 29, 2011

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

In the recent past we have experienced the passing of some in this congregation, people we love. They leave a hole in the middle of the congregation but there is a missing part in their home. Others have experienced the passing of family members that live in other places. They too experience a void.

Many times people ask, "Why?" Why did so and so die so young? Why did God allow this? To answer such a question, we don't have to look too hard. It started in the beginning, in the garden. Man, not God, brought sin and death into this world. From that moment suffering became a part of man's world. Sin brought corruption, pain, and torment. It brutalized man; causing man to commit terrible crimes against one another. It brought in diseases that destroy our physical bodies. God pronounced His judgment: ***"By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust and to dust you shall return."*** (Genesis 3:19)

Among all the suffering, all the pain, and all the death, God sent Jesus, His only begotten, into our world of sin and death. What was His purpose? To stop the corruption and death that is part of our lives? NO! He didn't need to stop aging the bodies that wear out or take away diseases. We need help with our eternal person, our eternal souls. Jesus came into our world to give assurance and peace despite the difficult circumstances. In His dying for our sins, He offers victory in trials, not exemption from trials. He offers assurance in dangers, not immunity from dangers. It's not what happens to us that is an issue with the Lord but what is happening IN us! God declared His judgments because of sin and death entering His creation that man brought. He declared His aide, from the throne of the One who spoke this world into existence.

Despite Christ's pain as a human, His horrible death, He cried out, ***"My God, My God!"*** Despite His being humiliated and His loneliness when all His disciples deserted Him, His heart was set: ***"My God, My God!"*** Everything was taken from Him from man's side but His heart was set on His God, His Father. What was the result? VICTORY! Victory in the face of death; ***"Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."*** (Luke 23:46) In other words, ***"I trust you!"*** HE AROSE! God won! We win! Death wasn't the end. It's where victory was gained but it is found only for those who trust in God. The message needs to ring in our ears and shout in our hearts from heaven: ***"For we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*** (Romans 8:28) Think about it!!!

Brent