



"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 – July 17, 2011

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

Isn't it easy to become lazy in our living and worship of the Lord? Maybe we need to hear closely what the Hebrew writer speaks about our relationship with the Lord: ***"But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has not pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul."*** (Hebrews 10:38-39) To become lazy in our spiritual walk and worship, to shrink back is destructive to our souls eternally. The Lord takes no pleasure in those who slack off. That should get our attention.

Paul instructed us that the mercies of God should be the driving force in the lives of the saved (Romans 12:1). Our response to His mercies should take each of us to ***"not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."*** (Romans 12:11) We need to have a *"spiritual eagerness"* in our relationship to the Lord. God isn't pleased with His children when they are lazy in their attitudes and desires for Him. Do we think God is not aware of our attitudes and desires? Is God aware of our diligence and fervor toward Him? Ask yourself this question: Am I really showing a diligence in my life and worship of God? Are you thrilled to be here today and worship or are you here because of obligation? Does your daily living show a service to the Lord?

The church at Ephesus in Revelation 2 was condemned for their lack of diligence and fervor. They had left their first love (Revelation 2:4-5). That doesn't mean they had abandoned Jesus! Jesus praises them for the things they had endured for His name sake (Revelation 2:2-3). But they were in trouble spiritually nevertheless. Why? Because they had slacked off in their fervor in their service to Him. Jesus told them to do the deeds they did at first. At first, when they were converted to Jesus, they were thrilled with their relationship to Him because of the mercy shown. They showed their love by their diligence in their lives by their deeds. Somewhere they had slacked off, backing off what they use to do and Jesus wasn't going to reward them for that. We see it today. People in the past who proved they could help in their service to the Lord but today no longer help! People think they put in some years helping in a certain capacity only to find themselves today doing little. Is that shrinking back? Jesus isn't speaking about incapable for health reasons. He is speaking about those who proved they render help in a service but no longer serve Him on that level. *They have chosen to back off.* When we become lazy and slack in our fervor toward the Lord, our service is replaced by becoming more involved in the world's affairs. Some are so lacking in their diligence they have difficulty coming to worship anymore with the saints and helping where help needs to be!

Have we become lazy in our spiritual walk? Are we of those who shrink back to destruction? Have we lost the love and fervor for the cross, the mercies of God? Do you remember when you were thirsty to grow in the grace of God but now find yourself indifferent with little striving? God seeks those sincere in faith. He is looking for people that are motivated by His mercy and love, willing to extend themselves, offering themselves to serve for His name sake. Those are the ones who will be there in the end, when everything in this world winds down. It all depends on the condition of our heart desiring to preserve our souls for eternity. Think about it!!!

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