



"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 31, 2011

Heart to Heart...

Too many are squandering their lives and opportunities. It is all about choices that are made. The choices: sleep in on Sunday or worship in spirit and truth. The choices: spend time in prayer and opportunity to study or go on an outing. It seems some just don't believe their lives are really headed to eternity or they wouldn't be making some of the choices in their lives.

I would encourage each of us, read Hebrews 11 and carefully note those of faith, saving faith, which was God approved. Listen to one aspect of those of faith: ***"All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on earth. For those who say such things make it clear they are seeking a country of their own."*** (Hebrews 11:13-14) They *"make it clear"*! That's what saving faith does, makes certain what is sought in their life. When one makes it clear, they make proper choices. These faithful men and women lived richly blessed lives even amidst their struggles and pains. They were looking, focusing and reaching for the eternal country that God promised. They didn't fritter away their lives chasing pleasures, hobbies and other desires. It's not wrong to enjoy the things the Lord gave us but when we make choices, choosing the pleasures given over the opportunity to grow our faith and express our love, something is wrong. These faithful brethren didn't waste their time lazing in bed and allowing spiritual opportunities to pass by. What about us?

Our lives on this earth can be difficult at times but all the difficulties and distresses are part of the *"making it clear we are seeking a country of our own"* experience. We know we are headed to die one day (or the Lord will return) but many don't seem to take their pilgrimage seriously. We live like we are going to be here forever with all our activities and accumulation of things and money. Our lives are weighed down with everything but God! We fill our time with innumerable obligations, clubs, organizations and commitments. Our energies are expended on all this and when it comes to choosing spiritual things, those pass by the way with little serious thought! And our children are learning from us well. The result is many become frazzled and their faith just slowly erodes away.

I believe in life after death because Jesus is alive!! We need our hope in God. We need to believe in life ***before*** death!! That's where we stumble. We have a great capacity for adventure, enjoyment and excitement but many are just squandering their lives away in these forms of death. That's why many are not living life here and wasting many spiritual opportunities. The things we choose to involve ourselves in and what we put our efforts toward reveal what we really believe. Those men and women of faith welcomed the promises from a distance, confessed they were strangers (this world was not their home) so they would have the most when they die. They had a purpose in life and lived with purpose and meaning. To the spiritually dead existing from day to day, waiting for the next *"pleasure, involvement or game"* is all that matters. They will find themselves in serious trouble in the end. ***"But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He prepared a city for them."*** (Hebrews 11:16) It makes me reflect, is God ashamed of me (us)? Think about it!!!

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