Fairgrounds Road
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MESSENGER
"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 – August 28, 2011

Heart to Heart…

She was a humble and kind lady. Those who knew her loved her. People realized how dedicated and devoted she was to the Lord. She came to speak with me and her heart poured forth troubles that no one knew. It was evident in her struggles that she loved the Lord but her failures over-whelmed her. She was struggling with sin in her life. She spoke to several who were close to her but they offered her little help telling her she was such a kind and gentle person that it would be alright. (They seemed to base their help on her goodness and she knew better!) They would tell her to just pray about it. Have you ever been in this situation? It was not alright to her as her sincere faith wanted to overcome the sin with which she struggled. People can look good outwardly but inwardly they can be struggling!

We need to take sin seriously. Little sins, big sins need to be taken seriously! God sure takes it serious. It seems more and more of those claiming Christ as their Lord take sin lightly. Little comments about "no one's perfect" or "we all struggle" seem to lessen sins blows. That's not good. God is serious about sin and hauled sin into court, casting His judgment against it, condemning it. All sin is serious to God!

"For God did not send His Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:17) God is not waiting around to destroy someone eternally in the pits of hell. People end up in that eternal place because of their choices in life, by not taking sin seriously. Here is God at His greatest: Our sin provoked the Holy Father to mount a great rescue operation through His Son.

God is opposed to sin, ALL SIN! His opposition to sin is pitiless and ceaseless! But let's not forget this: God has a relentless love for us, the sinful. Here are a few things to think about as you battle against sin in your life:

(1) The cross of Jesus did not bribe God to adopt a forgiving mood! The cross of His Son was the expression of His eternal love for us. Look at it!
(2) The cross of Jesus did not buy grace from God! The cross of Jesus was the unveiling of an eternally gracious Father. Grace extended!
(3) The cross of Jesus did not persuade an unwilling heavenly Father to come to our rescue! The cross of Jesus Christ was the ultimate demonstration that God had already, from the very beginning, moved that direction. Accept it!

Put some thought into these things as you deal with your striving against sin. Realize what the cross of Christ speaks to each one of us. Our God is calling and not wishing any to perish. Think about it!!!

Brent