



"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 – January 29, 2012

Heart to Heart...

After spending a week at the lectureship at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas it impressed me with the importance of sound, serious, healthy teaching of the truth. I heard many preachers and spoke to many one on one. It impressed upon my heart the need for sound preachers while listening to how many brethren have destroyed the Lord's church in many places because of the lack of sound preaching.

I am grateful to my Lord for allowing me to work and serve with this congregation half way through my 19th year. The Lord has blessed us. You have been a very loving and a patient body of Jesus just putting up with me. I have so many weaknesses and have failed at times which you have been merciful to me. Thank you for showing me Jesus in your love for me.

I take seriously: "***Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.***" (I Timothy 4:16) I serve the Lord with all my heart, sometimes not saying things the best way and making mistakes, but I still serve with all my heart. I have only ONE goal in mind and that's making certain I make it to heaven and give you the teaching of the faith that will get you there too! I have not one ounce of any ill feelings toward any of the brethren, the Lord is my witness. I have your best interest in heart when I preach/teach. I want to keep sin away from us, truth maintained and faith built in us. Please always know that from your preacher(s).

I have been given a charge from the Lord to preach the word (II Timothy 4:2). I have been given a charge from the Lord to preach the word even if it is not met with good reception. When the word of the Lord is preached, the Lord is speaking and heed needs to be given. I have been given a charge to "***reprove***" for our souls sake. The word carries the idea of rebuking, to convict of sin that is present. If you are going to be in heaven, you must stay free from sin! I have been given a charge from the Lord to "***rebuke***" for our souls sake. The word carries the idea of a warning when people get out of line with God's word. I have been given a charge from the Lord with "***exhorting***" which is about comfort and encouragement. But I must do all this with "***great patience and instruction.***" Sometimes brethren will have wrong attitudes or wrong ideas about Scripture and the Lord calls me as His mouth-piece to keep instructing, correcting and warning with patience for His name sake. If I don't do this, I will face the Lord being asked why I didn't follow His voice! As hard as it is to accept, there will be some in the church that sound doctrine will not be tolerated, offended by the preaching and some will find teachers that teach what they want to hear, that fit their own desires and thinking (I Timothy 4:3). It happened with Jesus, the apostles preaching/teaching and will happen today. The role the Lord has placed me in is very serious and I am aware of that.

Paul told the preacher: "***These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.***" (Titus 2:15) That's my role. It's not a power role or a position above anyone. It's a God-given role to do as He asks. Your souls are at stake here! My soul is at stake! Please know and understand that. The future of this congregation the Lord has raised up in Jefferson City will depend on

if the word is preached and you brethren hold to it. I wish my abilities were better and that I said things in better ways at times but I still must listen to the voice of the Lord and so must you. I want you, every single member of Christ's body here, in heaven! When you see my weakness, accept me as I you. If I misstate something, correct me with gentleness and not attack. When I don't get a word right, be merciful as I do to you. When I fall on my face, pray for me as I do you. Remember, I'm planning on spending eternity with the Lord and if you have that same intense desire, we will be together forever. If you don't like that idea, I would encourage you to find Jesus because He plans that for me (us). Think about it!!! *SERIOUSLY!*

Brent