



Church of Christ

March 10, 2002

204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

Heart to Heart...

For the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them. (Acts 28:27)

What a position to find yourself in. The heart becomes dull and insensitive. The spiritual ears can't hear the Lord anymore. The spiritual eyes are shut and their mind is made up. Have you ever gone to a brother or sister in Christ in this condition? It's most disheartening.

For some time, they had not assembled with the saints. I was concerned for their soul and stopped by. They were in good health for which I was thankful. Finally, I stated my reason for the visit - concern for their soul and to see if I could help.

The first response was, everything was fine. They knew they hadn't been to the assembly for some time and it didn't seem to concern them. *The heart of this people has become dull.* I turned to the Scriptures, trying to encourage and warn of the direction their life was headed. They made no reply. I asked, *Can you say you are walking honestly with a whole heart devoted to Christ?* Their response was, *Who can honestly say that?* *And with their ears they scarcely hear.*

The Lord's Supper became the focus of our discussion. I spoke of communing with Christ Himself and the oneness of His body (I Cor. 10:16-17). I spoke of proclaiming His death on our behalf until He comes (I Cor. 11:26). We spoke about love for the people of God (I John 3:10) and encouraging them to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24). I asked them where they were in regard to these things. They continued to sit quietly, every once in a while making an excuse or trying to defend their position. *They have closed their eyes.*

No matter what I appealed to from God's holy word, from the cross of Christ and our forgiveness of sins because of His death, nothing seemed to make them take a serious look at where they were headed. Finally, toward the end of our discussion they spoke about how they still read their Bible and prayed. I asked if they were following what they read; there was no response. They had died spiritually and weren't even aware of it! The **only** hope they had would be to turn with a whole heart toward God, being honest and humble, and *understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them.*

As I walked away, I realized that the devil had taken another one of Christ's own and made them his own. It broke my heart but I can only imagine how Christ's heart must hurt. The individual was self deceived, convincing their own mind with lies and justifying their every action. I noticed those were all things that are associated with the devil. Their dullness, lack of hearing and closed eyes have lead them to no longer being a part of Christ and His body. What a sad condition to be in. I pray we will always strive with humble hearts and allow the death of Jesus to have a great impact on our lives. Think about it!!!

Brent