



# Church of Christ

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## Heart to Heart...

Isaiah had an encounter with God. It moved him to the depths of his soul and he responded with a whole heart. **"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I, send me!'"** (Isa. 6:8) God instructed Isaiah to teach and preach, but they would not listen or understand. (Isa. 6:9-10) Isaiah asked how long is he suppose to keep doing this? (Isa. 6:11) The Lord responded until the place is destroyed! What a message to hear from God. To preach and teach, knowing people won't listen, until one day, they are destroyed. God wanted only one thing from Isaiah: **preach the word!**

Peter wrote, **"Therefore, I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you."** (II Pet. 1:12) Paul wrote, **"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you."** (Phil. 3:1) These apostles of Jesus Christ were reminding the brethren (and us) over and over things they had been established in but, they needed to hear it again as it was the only safeguard they had.

In my early years of preaching, I was speaking with a fellow who had preached many more years than I. I told him that it seems I am saying the same things over and over, week to week and year to year. His words followed: *"Keep on teaching and reminding the things from God's word because some brethren don't hear to well."* I have discovered he is right.

In the years I have preached, I have watched brethren do the very opposite of what God's holy word says. I have seen young mothers, sowing to their flesh for so long, that one day they up and leave their husband behind for another fellow who gave them a little attention, because they felt they weren't appreciated at home. These same mothers were in God's presence week after week, while His word was being proclaimed. I've watched men, listened to them teach classes, be well thought of, even in some cases serve as elders, go after things that are opposite of God teachings. The preaching and teaching seems to make little impact on their lives. As I have aged, both physically and spiritually, it doesn't take much to understand why this happens. They are receiving nothing from God and His word. They aren't taking it in to affect their lives. **"Concerning Him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing."** (Heb. 5:11) When the heart becomes dull and insensitive, it's a matter of time before it catches up to people.

Today I realize that some will go the way of the devil and promote his world though their actions and attitudes. I know some brethren listen intently, wanting to grow and realizing the spiritual dangers and entrapments that exist. I know some don't even think it will happen to them, ignoring God's word to some degree, until one day, they go after wrong things and begin to accuse others for their own sinful choices. In all this, I know what the Lord wants. Just keep preaching and teaching the same things so all who have a sincere faith will be sound in the faith. For the others, there is nothing that can be done to help them. Think about it!!!

Brent