



"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 – March 22, 2009

Heart to Heart...

"This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder." (II Peter 3:1) Peter was convinced that the brethren who read his letter were of sincere minds. He was writing to stir up their minds, reminding them of some things they could attach themselves to for the spiritual growth and betterment in their daily walk with the Lord.

A person with a *sincere mind* wants to know, grasp hold of and do something with God's word, even if it is something they already know. Those that are not sincere in mind have little drive to want to grasp hold of anything from the Lord. They are content with their direction and are very difficult to reach. God cannot do much to reach them because they have no interest in responding.

A *sincere mind* also produces a *sincere faith*! We always want to be people with a *sincere faith*, not a fake or hypocritical faith. A *sincere faith* is genuine and real. It is a faith that moves with God and responds to His word. Timothy had a *sincere faith* (II Timothy 1:5). What a tribute for someone to speak about us as having a *sincere faith*. A *sincere faith* will ***"examine everything carefully; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil."*** (I Thessalonians 5:21-22) A person with a *sincere faith* will love and show their love to God's people. They will worship and want to worship with Christ's body. A *sincere faith* puts to death the deeds of their flesh each and every day.

"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."(I Timothy 1:5) The goal of all preaching/teaching should be directed with this purpose. If this is not what is striven for, it will lead to the following: ***"But some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussions."*** (I Timothy 1:6) To stray from a *sincere faith* (and the other things mentioned) will destroy your spiritual well being. Just go after things that yield little in your life and give you a sense of direction and you will ruin your *sincere faith*. Your spiritual desires will diminish and all the time you will find some excuse or reason to explain the path you have chosen. The word of God means less, other than when you use it for your personal gain.

Peter wrote to stir up the brethren's *sincere minds*. Paul told Timothy to preach/teach the things that would create a *sincere faith*. We need to be a people with a *sincere mind and faith* and that is proven by looking at what draws our attention. How sincere is your mind and faith? Think about it!!!

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