



"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 4, 2009

Heart to Heart...

We are facing a new year. Time moves on and the things that we did are past and gone, never to be regained! You can *never* go back and re-do something from the past. I want to ask each of you to look back over this last year and examine the things that you have done or not done. How many of the things you accomplished were done with eternity in mind? The things you were involved in, did they include a view of eternity? Everything we do in our lives need to be done with eternity in our mind and heart. We are headed there and each second that passes, you are one step closer to eternity.

"Remember also the Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no delight in them.'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1) Too many are not remembering, developing a relationship with the Creator in their youth! That's why parents with young children need to be walking and holding tightly to Jesus, training their children in the ways of God. Remember, *there are no re-dos!* Parents are involved in too many things that take away attention from the Lord and sadly to say, many parents place activities and amusements as first place in their lives and their children are led down a road away from God. Oh, it is not done with that intention, but parents know if they are truly committed or not. Evil days will come and putting God first will be the only means to overcome when evil hits. If we think the devil is not going to tempt us, to use every tool available in this present world to draw us away and our children, we are deceiving ourselves. Yet parents just lead their children down a path that does not develop a sincere faith, a deep love for the Lord and "church" is just something we attend out of habit, not love. It is more social than spiritual. Lives become filled with activities encouraged by parents and children, just like in a candy store, have no clue what is happening except they have fun picking out what they like because their parents do not know what is happening. No training, no instructing, no insight to the Creator in the days of their youth (and their parents youth) so they become targets of the devil to destroy the next generation among God's people. ***"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*** (I Peter 5:8) The devil is looking for easy prey and the easiest prey are those families who have little conviction about the Lord. They are easy targets because fathers are not instructing, disciplining their children in the Lord. The teachings of God mean little and the deep love and devotion are not found. Religion is just a motion, an empty, dutiful emotion and the devil is roaming about looking for that kind. He is looking to devour! When someone is devoured, they will not get back up! They are ruined and taken away! That should sober up our thinking if we are sincere in our faith!

We need to remember the Creator, but more than remember, we need to develop our convictions, teachings and love while the years are good because evil will touch your lives at some point, make no mistake. Your devotion to the Lord will reveal itself when the evil days come and there you will see where you have taken your personal life and the life of your family. Please, I appeal to each one of us, let's be sincere about the Lord. Read His word. Learn who He is and what makes Him worthy of our praise. Eternity is drawing nearer with each breath we take and God wants us in heaven, but there will be no free rides to half hearted, uncommitted people. The Lord gave His all so we could live. We need to know what it means to live and remember our Creator. Think about it!!!

Brent