

Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T
MESSENGER

"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 18, 2009

Heart to Heart...

When the telegraph was the fastest method of long distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Upon entering the office, it was a large room filled with people sitting at desks, talking and the clatter of the telegraph was in the background. He was astounded by all the noise. He read the sign on the receptionist desk instructing job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter a private office. As the young man sat down to fill out his application, he noticed others sitting, patiently waiting to be called into the office for an interview. They were chatting about this and that. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the office door, walking right in. The other applicants looked up wondering what was going on. They hadn't heard any summons or names called. They assumed the young man took things upon himself to enter the office. Within a few minutes, the employer walked out with the young man and spoke these words to the other applicants: *"Thank you for coming in, but the job has been filled."* The applicants began to grumble and complain. One spoke out, *"I don't understand! He just came in and walked into your office and we never got an opportunity to speak with you. It's not fair!"* The employer spoke, *"For the last several minutes while you were sitting here, talking with one another caught up in your own world, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in! The job is yours!'"*

Many times people are really good at talking and not good at listening. It amazes me at the lack of listening skills so many have. Jesus warned His disciples, *"So take care how you listen; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away."* (Luke 8:18) Listening carefully to the Lord is what will take one deeper and deeper into the spiritual insight from the Lord. Listening to the wrong things can be spiritually destructive.

After Jesus was transfigured on the mountain with Peter, James and John present, God spoke these words to them, *"This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!"* (Luke 9:35) Listen to Jesus! Listening to Jesus is what will keep our souls from being snared. Too many listen to the wrong things. I was listening to some very religious men the other day speaking with one another. As I observed, they were inviting others to *"come join their open bible study!"* Suddenly, a book appears and it is a sports related book written by a winning coach on winning in life. My mind shifted, *"Bible study...book on sports...Bible study...book on sports."* No wonder we have such a messed up religious world. We listen to everyone but God and His Son. The word of God is not what many want. People listen to every thing but the word. Some man writes a book, sprinkles Bible verses, making some religious application in it and we treat it like it's from God! Be careful to what you listen to. Jesus said His followers would be yoked together with Him and learn from Him (Matthew 11:29). Jesus said His sheep hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:27). Who do you listen to? Are you a good listener? How much do we miss from the Lord because we are listening to the wrong sources? Maybe that's why so many are weak and sick spiritually! Some might even be dead because they have listened too long to the wrong things! Think about it!!!

Brent