



"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 – April 19, 2009

Heart to Heart...

People seem to be squandering their lives away. It seems the younger you are, the less you see the importance of life. Many live like they are going to make a ripe old age and yet we see the death of youth all the time. It never seems to penetrate the hearts of many the seriousness of their lives.

When we look at those of faith, God's word speaks, "***All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.***"(Hebrews 11:13-14) God's people lived a richly blessed life with their struggles and that life was lived looking for the eternal country, their eternal dwelling. Their lives and hope were placed in the promises of God. Therefore, they didn't fritter their lives away chasing pleasures, games and things. Their lives weren't lived wasting time by lazing in bed and letting spiritual opportunities pass. Our lives on this earth can be difficult and distressing at times but it is all part of the "going home" experience. We know we are going to die but we don't seem to take our pilgrimage on this earth seriously. We weigh ourselves down with everything but God. We burden our lives with "things" and innumerable obligations. We are involved in clubs and organizations and various pleasures. Our energies are used for everything but what the Lord intended and the result is we are tangled in a web of stuff and burdens. Our lives are frazzled from running. Our faith grows little and it is seen in our lack of dedication in our service to the cause of Christ.

It is good to believe in life after death and have hope in God, but we need to believe in life *before* death! That's where we get sidetracked. We have a great capacity for adventure and excitement but *many times that is only squandering one's life in another form of death.* That's why many are not living life here and now but wasting opportunities. The way we live presently is indicating what we believe!! Those men and women of old, welcomed the promises from a distance, confessed they were strangers on this earth because they saw their lives headed to God! They made the most of things on this earth so they would have the most after they die. Hopeful saints do not see life the way others see life! They have a purpose...a living and meaningful purpose each day. To the dying and lost, they just exist from day to day, wasting their lives by involvement in so much to find themselves separated in the end. To the saved, the hopeful saint, they live each day with full assurance, making forward progress toward the ultimate goal that has been placed before them. "***But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.***" (Hebrews 11:16) Think about it!!!

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