



"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 3, 2013

Heart to Heart...

People seem to be searching for something to help their lives and make decisions. Many move from one idea to another, hoping someone has some right advice to bring a solution to whatever is being faced. In many cases, people seek externals to solve internal issues. All stresses and strains are on our inside, not outside, but we reach for the externals many times. Do we not consider Jesus? All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Jesus (Colossians 2:3) and not anywhere else. They are hidden and that means we must search one place only if we are to find answers and help in stressful situations.

“Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.” (Hebrews 13:9-10) The Hebrew writer is warning those in Jesus not to be taken back into outer conformity! Externals will not help our hearts be strengthened. The way we find strength and answers are found from the grace of God in Christ Jesus. We share in an altar that no one else has access to until they come to Christ. That means the advice and direction they give will not be from grace or Christ but from some external means. Just read Matthew 23 and there you will see the Pharisees using external means to bring people under their control. Jesus condemned them and warned His disciples not to follow suit. We have the privilege and the opportunity to partake of real food sustenance from God.

Do you want to know what to do with your children to train them? We have a Savior, a Wonderful Counselor sitting at the right hand of God ready to teach and show us. Do you want to know how to live your life without caving in when stress hits? We have a Lord that has made us complete and head over all rule and authority (Colossians 2:10) that knows the things we need within in those situations (Hebrews 12:1-3). Do you want to know what to do when faced with a difficult decision? We have available to us wisdom from above to direct our steps in the path that is pure and proper and will keep you from stumbling. Do you want to keep from anxiety ruling your life? We have an answer from the Lord how to prevent that (Philippians 4:4-7).

If the grace of God saves us (and it does) then the grace of God can direct us. The grace of God is our instruction to deny ungodliness and worldly desires, teaching us to live sensibly and godly with righteousness in this present time (Titus 2:11-12). If we don't grasp hold of the grace of God, we will have to rely on cute little sayings of the day or the power of the thinking of another for our advice and security. We have the right to eat of God's altar so we won't be *“carried away by varied and strange teachings.”* If it's not according to Christ, we shouldn't be listening or asking for input! Think about it!!!

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