



"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 – September 22, 2013

Heart to Heart...

Jesus was trying to reach the Jews and finally spoke these words: *You search the Scriptures, because you think you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.*" (John 5:39-40)

Here were the people of God and they had some serious problems with God. Jesus could not convince them of it as they believed they were fine just the way they were and they had the Scriptures to prove it!

"Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30-31)

The Jews did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God and they refused to accept Him as such. (It remains the same today.) They were content with having the Old Testament Scriptures and being able to interpret them in their own way to suit their own purposes.

Many today have the same difficulty with God and His word. They will openly agree that Jesus is the Son of God and accept Him as Lord with all their heart but the difficulty comes when they want to interpret the Scriptures to suit their own purposes or belief system. Many create Jesus in their own image instead of being created into Jesus and His image (Romans 8:29).

Jesus said that the Scriptures (specifically the Old Testament) are the very ones that testify about Him. If the Jews had understood the Scriptures, they would have come to Jesus in order to have life. If they believed the Scriptures, they would have embraced the teaching of Jesus. Today, we need to understand the purpose of Scripture. They are to create a saving faith in Jesus, the only One who has eternal life. True saving faith is what brings us to Christ on His terms as He speaks to us from His Scriptures. One cannot have life without Jesus and coming to Him on His terms!

Listen to the number of people when they quote Scripture. Many misrepresent what is being said in order to support their personal stance or involvement. Many take Scripture out of the context they were spoken. Do you have eternal life? Are you in a relationship with Jesus? I pray you do, but the real test comes on how we allow the word of our Lord to influence our thinking and behavior, to mold us into His likeness. Do we listen and accept in context or jump to some conclusion to support our thinking? Otherwise, we too search the Scripture thinking our speaking and possession of them gives us eternal life, just as the Jews in the day of Jesus did. Think about it!!!

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