



"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 – October 12, 2014

## ***Heart to Heart...***

While sitting in my vehicle filling up with gas, two of my grandchildren were with me. They were talking away with me as grandchildren do, just being delightful and innocent. Things fell silent for a few moments as they were occupied with books.

As I sat there waiting for the tank to fill, I began looking around at the establishment's building. A sign caught my attention that was flashing beer emblems inviting all to drink. To the left of that flashing sign, another sign said, "*Drink responsibly!*" Across from that sign there was a multi-colored sign saying, "*Play Lotto!*" Below that it said, "*Win millions!*" In another window there was a camel with a cigarette in its mouth puffing away, inviting all to come in and buy tobacco products. The camel was made in a way that looked cool. On the door was a sign that spoke of a high energy drink to "*boost your day!*" Beside that was a sign for buying some pills that would help you get over the "*the daily drags*". Another window had a bourbon sign encouraging "*a smooth and tasty drink to the last drop.*" There was another sign speaking, "*It's Miller time!*" There were posters of scantily clad women inviting to drink this booze or register to win this prize. Have you ever noticed? My mind began to think of what God must think of our day and time. I hear God's word clearly: "***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 majority of people are not alert to any of the spiritual powers that are reaching out taking people down in both heart and soul. There is little awareness in lives. People just exist while blindly going about their daily activities. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life are not from God (I John 2:16). Signs everywhere look pretty, flashing encouragement to corrupt and drive people into desires. It hit me that I too had been part of all this corruption at some time in my life. I was thankful for being released, being made a partaker of God's divine nature to escape "*the corruption that is in the world by lust.*" (II Peter 1:4) It is only by the blood of Christ.

In all my reflecting, a voice piped up, "*Grandpa, I love you!*" What timing. I looked in the mirror and one of my grandkids was looking at me. I saw within them the innocence, the love and care shown and realized that one day all my grandchildren would fall prey into the trap of the devil and his lustful resources. It hurt my heart knowing that their purity would be lost. The grandkids began talking again as we drove away and the Scriptures hit me: "***But according to His promise we are looking for a new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.***" (II Peter 3:13-14)

How do you see your life in regarding this world? Do you long for heaven? Are you one that is diligent to be found by Him spotless and blameless? Think about what it means to be spotless and blameless. That's not perfection. That's faith being lived in the presence of God. It's a faith that is sober and alert to what is going on around us and in situations. In heaven there will be no flashing signs encouraging us into the poisons of this world that sits in the lap of the devil. There will be no troublemakers, no lusts to draw us away, no one who lies and deceives. No, there will be no discussions, no hint of any unrighteousness. Oh what a day that will be! But until that day, we need to have some soberness about what we involve our lives in and spend our efforts toward. Just look at the signs! Think about it!!!

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