



“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 16, 2017

Heart to Heart...

We need to gain insight, further insight into what happened to us when we entered Christ Jesus through baptism. That union did something rather remarkable. As you read this, take a few moments and remember when you were immersed into Christ. Can you recall that? That day, what was going through your mind? What was going on in your heart? Can you recall? What is happening within you now as time has taken you forward since the day you entered Christ?

We are held spellbound with magicians and the things they can do. We have seen people take ugly, ordinary things and turn them into a wonderful work of art. In the Philippines pornography is illegal. The government found a raft afloat with this material and they took it all and shredded it. After the shredding, they turned the paper over to the Philippine Bible Society for them to print Bibles. That’s a major change, wouldn’t you say?

We turn to our baptism into Christ and what is amazing is what Jesus did to us and for us. We were turned from children of the devil into a child of God. We were bound by sin changing masters to be bound to Christ. We were sanctified (set apart as holy) by the blood of Christ. We were justified (acquitted of all charges) because Jesus became our substitute paying our price before God. We are saints, blameless because we placed our faith in Jesus and He came to our rescue. In all this, what did you do? You simply believed the message and responded. God through Jesus did all the work and it cost His life to bring us into this standing. Jesus is God’s gift to us!

We look at our brothers and sisters at Corinth. People bound by sin before they came into Christ (I Corinthians 6:9-10). They were a rather motley group but I’m looking at me too. ***“Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”*** (I Corinthians 6:11) What a change the Lord Jesus brought to them and us!

What Jesus did for the Corinthians He can do (and did) for us. I say He ‘can do’ because there are those who have not believed and seen what the Lord has done. They just think of their baptism as some religious experience never seeing by faith the power of God and working of

God with them. ***“Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.”*** (Colossians 2:12) Who did what? God did the working in raising us up with Jesus just as He did the work raising Jesus. In all this, God is trying to change our whole being! He gave us a new self in His image. The question is will we put on the new self? We respond by faith and lay aside the old while putting on the new and God does His work in us. It is amazing what people become! The things of God become more important as He changes us. The world becomes a less draw for us because our old self was part of that. How are you doing in your walk in your new self from God? Are you more like Jesus today than last week? Last month? That’s the saving issue here. Think about it!!!

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