



"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 – May 21, 2017

Heart to Heart...

Jesus told the Pharisees, the teachers and instructors of God's word among the Jews, their worship to God was in vain, of no use, and of no account before God (Matthew 15:8-9)! Jesus quoted Scripture proclaiming to the devil that true worship is toward the Lord and God is the center (Luke 4:8). Paul taught the Corinthians that their worship was making them worse off spiritually (I Corinthians 11:17, 30). What would the Lord speak to your worship? Why are you here today? Are you acceptable or unacceptable? Worship is a response from man to God and we need to see what God speaks as acceptable or condemning.

The Jews worshipped! They claimed their allegiance to God and proclaimed God was their God while they loved their worship of Him. (Isaiah 1:10-15) God said their worship was worthless and He abhorred them! Along comes Amos, a prophet of God with God's word in his mouth. Amos didn't sugar coat anything when speaking to those who claimed their love for God, speaking that their worship and attitude in their worship was multiplying their sins. That's hard to believe that worship can multiply the sins of people but make no mistake that can happen. One can worship and sin!! We need to humble ourselves and grasp what God sees when we gather as the body of Christ to worship.

Listen carefully to the verbs used by God against His people in regard to their worship: *"I hate...I reject...nor do I delight...I will not accept...I will not even look...take away...I will not even listen"* (Amos 5:21-23). God placed a stamp across His people: **"Worship rejected!"** It seems little thought is given as to why we come together by some. God is looking at each heart and determines everything about us from our heart of worship.

It's difficult for us to believe that God rejects worship but if we would read Scripture, you will see it clearly. Attitudes of the heart, attitudes toward the Lord, the desire to want to be here or not want to be here and the thoughts taking place in our hearts will determine if we are God accepted or God rejected! As I said, it is very difficult for us to believe that our worship can actually make us worse off spiritually, yet it can. Ill feelings toward another brother or sister will deteriorate one spiritually, while sitting and singing to praise His name and taking His Supper. That's worship in hypocrisy! To sit without any heart response, any praise or proper attitude in the heart creates a sin problem between you and the Lord. Not only can our daily living create

rejection from God, but our worship can be sinful and cause sin upon sin. God speaks to His priests in Malachi 1:10 that there would be “*one*

among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you, says the Lord of hosts, nor will I accept an offering from you.”

If you could look into God’s book and see all the Sunday’s you worshipped, what would you see stamped? “***Worship rejected!***” or “***Worship accepted!***” Acceptable worship brings blessings from God. Rejected worship will corrupt and destroy you. This is a good time to take inventory of our hearts and see why we come together and what we offer to the Lord our God. There are consequences if we don’t judge ourselves rightly with right attitudes, and those consequences are eternal unless we take our salvation and worship seriously. We must offer to God acceptable worship according to His holiness. Think about it!!!

Brent