



“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 – July 9, 2017

Heart to Heart...

It seems every time we turn around someone is telling us something that creates fear in us. Climate change, a hole in the ozone, new diseases and old ones, the loss of the rain forests, new epidemics, terrorists and the list keeps climbing and climbing. People don't know what to believe or think but they know how to live in fear and in many cases fear controls their actions. Fear seems so prevalent except one, the most major one: ***Fear of the Lord!*** There is little fear of the Lord!

To fear the Lord God that creates awe, respect and reverence is almost a no-no! People talk endlessly about the love of God. We sing of His grace and love but when you begin to speak of the wrath of God, that's what people don't want to hear. There is no fear of sin or hell. Because of this one-sided love, punishment is gone. Everyone will be in heaven with little interest or desire as long as their belief in God is promoted and believed upon. Scriptures like: ***“Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.”*** (Romans 11:22) It seems to matter little to people. Love involves fear of the Lord. It seems more and more people don't want to be warned of disobedience, just love and God's grace covers the rest. When the fear of the Lord is missing in our lives, God will be missing! ***“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations and their foolish heart was darkened.”*** (Romans 1:21) Just listen to people talk and you will hear the lack of honor and giving thanks. You will hear cuddly stories and ‘God loves me unconditionally’ talk! ***“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”*** (Proverbs 9:10) ***“In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have refuge.”*** (Proverbs 14:26) When the fear of the Lord is absent there is no confidence and stronghold!

Jesus came preaching and teaching the truth of God. Israel had become lazy spiritually and had little fear of the Lord. They had a lot of fear of man so Jesus pointed to the truth: ***“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*** (Matthew 10:28)

The apostle Peter admonished us not to return to our thinking and former lusts but be holy in ALL our behavior because God is holy! (I Peter 1:15-16) Then comes these words: ***“If you***

address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth." (I Peter 1:17) The fear of the Lord will keep you on track and if we have it, we will never drift from Him. The fear of the Lord, that's a good and healthy faith response! Think about it!!!

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