



"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 30, 2017

Heart to Heart...

I want to take this week and thank the elders and this congregation for your patience and love while I travel to other places preaching and teaching. Your prayers are extremely important in my preaching. Your support of me is what allows the preaching of the gospel at every opportunity. We co-labor together and you are just as much a great part in this work and outreach when I travel.

If I may, I would like to convey what these opportunities are about. Recently I received a couple of emails stating that they hoped I got "some rest on my vacations" while traveling and preaching which told me there is a lack of insight by some. People are hurting, starving for the word in locations. When I am invited to come preach, I am careful where I select to go. I choose the places that are small and may not have a preacher. Those are the most needful places. Sometimes I am given insight to difficulties a congregation might be facing so I go there to help. Most of the time when a large congregation invites me, I do not accept as they are more stable unless they are facing a certain crisis. My travels to preach/teach always have a purpose. It is definitely not a time of rest. Not only do I preach/teach but I meet with people, counsel people and sometimes I'm invited to speak to the area leaders/preachers to encourage them in their work while on these meetings. The Lord's church is under attack and some places struggle greatly. They need our help and prayers.

The church of our Lord is powerful, yet very fragile. It doesn't take much to destroy the teaching and the faith of some. If there is a little "leaven" among us it doesn't take much to affect the whole (I Corinthians 5:6-7) and the leaven needs to be cleaned out. That's the most difficult part. People can be sharp, attacking, condemning and use hurtful words in their attacks. That's the work of the devil. He wants nothing more than to destroy the unity and peace of God and His children. We need to rejoice in the peace and harmony that exists among us. Do your part in Christ's body to build up.

I ask you to please pray for our elders. They have a great and difficult task among us. To consider things for the spiritual welfare of this congregation is a great load to carry. These men need our prayers and encouragement. They aren't perfect men but they care deeply for this congregation.

Please keep me in your prayers as I work among you and travel about. Know that each place I go, you are with me in spirit and in prayer. Together we strive for the faith God's will is accomplished. May the Lord bless you and may He continue to grow us into the likeness of Jesus. May our love for each other grow. Let's continually look for opportunities to reach out to the lost around us as each day people that are separated from God are drawing one-day closer to their eternal destiny and it won't be good. They need Christ Jesus to bear their sins. Think about it!!!

Brent