



"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 – November 26, 2017

## Heart to Heart...

***"There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek."*** (Roman 2:9) Why are so many miserable? Why is life so difficult? Here is one major reason: practicing evil. Wrong attitudes and refusal to listen to God at His word are two major contributors for distress and troubles in the soul. Our agitations and distresses are happening in the soul and only a proper moving toward the Lord will remove the soul's troubles. One must make a clean, whole-hearted break from sin by repentance or you will stay in your sins and your soul will be distressed!

When one repents, they break-away instantly with a good attitude and start doing what is right by the Lord. There must be a whole-hearted approach to God if one is to ever find relief. To repent of our sinfulness and not doing right is no repentance at all. To confess our sins to the Lord but not be willing to change our attitude and hearts is no confession at all.

Here is how Jesus describes things: ***"Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.'"*** (Luke 11:24) Sin wants to return where it once dwelt! ***"And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order."*** (Luke 11:24) When repentance is done, the heart becomes clean, put in order. ***"Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."*** (Luke 11:26) When one repents of their sins, there has to be something put in the void, the place in the heart. That's why doing what is right or practicing righteousness is so important. The void left by having our sins cleansed must be filled with God's righteousness. Failure to do so will lead to a much worse condition down the road than what started.

People repent only to fall prey again to sin. Each time they are in their sins, to bring them back to repentance a second or third time becomes much more difficult. The heart grows harder as sin grows stronger. They repent again only to return to the world of bad attitudes and things like that again. Each time the hardness makes their state of being worse than the time before. Eventually their soul grows so dark and their heart becomes so seared that they can never be reached again. That's why the Hebrew writer warns: ***"Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God."*** (Hebrews 3:12) Please watch over your heart and soul as there can be eternal consequences because of hardening. Think about it!!!

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