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“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

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**Sunday – December 17, 2017**

## **Heart to Heart...**

Today, more than ever, the truth of God’s word needs to ring out! There is so much dangled in front of people from religion and it seems more and more are listening less to the truth of the Word and taking bits and pieces making into a belief they like and agree with. We need the truth! We need teaching and sermons that sounds forth the word of the Lord in His truth rather than the tickling of ears and making lessons designed for interesting discussions. There is so much mixture anymore that we must ask ourselves: Is there anyone seeking the truth? Too many are making things ‘consumer friendly’ rather than God centered.

When we hear preaching/teaching we need something solid for our faith. We need that one good jewel of truth in lessons brought to us to draw a conviction. Here is a simple truth to mull over: If a man fails to listen to God we should not listen to that man! Our preachers/teachers need to hear God’s voice from His Scripture and not man’s ideas or smarts. Too much entertainment. Too many words spoken that fill time with no substance. Too much preaching/teaching is self-centered, self-driven and self-maintained. Many cannot tell the difference because the truth of God’s word is not what people seek, so they get caught up in all this ‘interesting preaching/teaching.’ People like an entertaining lesson rather than confronted with the truth from God. Our preaching in worship should bring us face to face with God!

Take a group of people and most would believe they are qualified to give advice to others! In no other field of human interest are people ready to offer their ‘two-cents worth’ in religion and morality. It is precisely this field that has done the most harm spiritually.

David warned against the counsel of the ungodly (Psalm 1). It is ungodly to not seek the truth no matter how nice or great of a speaker someone is. The word of God is filled with the history of examples of men and women who made a failure of their lives because they listened to wrong advice and accepted a mixture of input. Rehoboam, Solomon’s son, listened to men who did not

listen or seek God and the result was the whole failure of the nation of Israel. The whole nation was led astray and paid a high price (I Kings 12). The counsel of Ahithophel led Absalom into his own destruction (II Samuel 15). We can't forget about the 12 spies sent into God's promised land where God would provide and care for them that 10 of the 12 men refused God's word and took it upon themselves to offer their counsel of better advice while threatening to kill the two who stood with the word of the Lord (Numbers 13:30-14:10). This is seen over and over in Scripture from God and it is right before our eyes, yet it seems many aren't overly concerned with the teaching and counsel they receive.

No one should offer advice, teachings and ideas who has not first heard God speak from His word! No one should ever counsel others who is not ready to hear and follow the counsel of the Lord. True wisdom (James 3:17-19) must echo God's voice to follow His path. The only safe path and light for our feet is the light which is reflected from Christ Jesus the Lord, the Light of the world and His teachings. Think about it!!!

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