



“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 31, 2017**

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

As long as the Lord gives me breath, I will do my best to uphold His teachings. The most important aspect of Christianity is to seek the truth no matter what others might think or say. The truth, not a truth, not some truth but the truth is the will of God. Outside the truth lurks a great danger: **“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the traditions of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.”** (Colossians 2:8) These words from the Lord were written to and for the church. They should impact us greatly.

It is your personal responsibility to not be taken captive through following teachings and ideas that are not part of Christ. The greatest danger is being taken captive by the power behind all the philosophy, deception, tradition and elementary principles: it’s called sin. Sin is looking for ways to take back control of people’s lives and one of the easiest ways to enter your life is to get you to follow teachings and ideas that look religious but are not part of the will of God, according to Christ. Things that come along might make us feel good but feelings are not the truth. The only thing that can set a person free is the truth. The truth is singular! There is only one teaching that can set one free and we must be humble and willing to seek that truth. Only by abiding in the words of Jesus can we find the knowledge of the truth (John 8:31-32).

Jesus points out clearly: **“If anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”** (John 12:47-48) Jesus allows anyone to reject His sayings. But to reject His word is a rejection of Jesus Himself no matter what one feels or thinks. It is a huge mistake to not want to listen to the truth of Jesus’ words. There is a high price that comes with it.

Paul instructed Timothy: **“Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”** (II Timothy 2:7) If Timothy or anyone else is going to come to understanding from the Lord we must pay close attention to what was spoken and taught by Jesus as He instructed His apostles to teach His word. John points out that in the first century, after preaching and teaching the truth from Jesus, there were those who departed from the established truth, and had gone out into the world with other teachings (I John 2:18-19). It didn’t take long for people to depart from the truth. There were people who were once part of the truth and now had twisted

things to deceive those who held to the truth (I John 2:26). John says hold to the anointing, the truth, to stay with you as no lie if of the truth (I John 2:27).

We must be truth seekers. There are too many following, listening, and accepting that whatever they deem as religious before God must be alright to follow and heed because they quote from Scripture. It's one thing to quote from Scripture and leave it in context of what is being spoken, but to twist and turn it to our own personal agendas is leaving the truth and that will take one captive. If it's not according to Christ Jesus, it's not the truth! Think about it!!!

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