



“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 – January 7, 2018

## Heart to Heart...

There are so many disturbing things we hear daily. Wars, injustices, natural disasters and some things just made up to create fear. Our world, our nation has become a sad state of affairs. Many speak of the end of the world while others use this as prophecy about some cataclysmic event that will soon take place. The question that needs to be asked is: Is there any hope?

Jesus spoke to His own disciples about the impending doom of Jerusalem (Matthew 24). One thing He reminded them was there *“will be wars and rumors of wars.”* (Matthew 24:6) In various places there *“will be famines and earthquakes.”* (Matthew 24:7) In this mixture there will be *“many false prophets and will mislead many.”* (Matthew 24:11) As lawlessness increases, people’s love will grow cold. (Matthew 24:12) Then comes the words of Jesus to His disciples: ***“But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”*** (Matthew 24:13) Remember these words Jesus spoke were about the destruction of Jerusalem and not the end of time. How would one endure? By being alert and ready! Instead of getting caught up in all the events taking place and hearing all the bad news they were being instructed to hold to Jesus! Prepare your heart for the Lord and His teachings and not the information flowing from the world. Watch over your life and how you live. Give the Lord entrance to guide and not the world.

We too need this same teaching. Don’t get caught up in all the news and drama spewed out around us on a daily basis. Get caught up in the Lord by the renewing of your mind and setting your heart to receive His teachings. The Psalmist found himself on the verge of despair when he penned these words: ***“My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all day long, ‘Where is your God?’”*** (Psalms 42:3) When the Psalmist came to his senses he came to a sobering and proper conclusion: ***“Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence.”*** (Psalm 42:5) HOPE IN GOD! This is the counsel of God for the righteous.

The preacher was finishing his lesson preparation for Sunday and the phone rang. The words came from the caller: *“My child has died!”* The hurt, the anguish was heard without any more words stated. What do you say to one at this time? Then singing: *“When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace; in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.”* Is this where we really stand? Think about it!!!

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