



Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

MESSENGER

“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 28, 2018

Heart to Heart...

One of the most difficult things to do is trust, especially when life becomes difficult. When things shake us or we face difficulties with uncertain outcomes, fears and turmoil ravage our hearts. We begin to question God when such happens or take an attitude that nothing can really be done about our situation. It might even get to a point of what is the use of being a child of God if He doesn't help?

Eight centuries before the Lord Jesus Christ came into our world on a death mission, the king of Judah saw his people under siege. Israel (the 10 northern tribes) and Syria had conspired together to overthrow Judah and their king and punish the people (Isaiah 7). Israel and Syria were in a state of panic themselves because the ruling army of the world, the Assyrian's, were headed their way to destroy them. Israel and Syria had offered Judah to join forces with them to stop this but Judah refused so these two nations decided they would turn on Judah to teach them a lesson. King Ahaz (Judah's king) feared the plans of Israel and Syria but really feared Assyria and knew it was only a matter of time before the Assyrian's would show up on their doorstep. King Ahaz thought if he could join forces with the Assyrian's to destroy Israel and Syria it would preserve his kingdom. What a mess fear created.

King Ahaz finds out the Assyrian's overrun Israel and Syria. What could he do? Judah was next in line! Here comes Isaiah sent from Jehovah God. Isaiah says it wasn't Assyria who did all this to Israel and Syria. IT WAS ALMIGHTY JEHOVAH! God makes it very clear in Isaiah chapter 8 that He was in control of the whole situation and that Assyria would enter Judah like a flood that will reach to the neck but no further. Assyria was not going to take down Judah! God was allowing discomfort but only to teach His people to learn how to trust in Him. Then God speaks through Isaiah warning them NOT to walk in the thinking or counsel of the people. God warned the king not to fear what the people fear!! Why? Because they were His children and God watches over His children and has things under His control even when it looks the worst. The king of Judah failed and trusted in his own feelings and reasonings and it cost him dearly.

We don't face such in our day and time and have no threats as they faced. We do have difficulties and situations that can be severe. We feel the distress of our situations. What do we do? Where do we turn? Do we turn to a network of others? Have we thought about responding to the name “**IMMANUEL!**”? That name stands for “**GOD WITH US!**” Is God really with us? We speak the words when all is well, but when things turn for the worst fear and panic hit just like king Ahaz!

Our faith in *IMMANUEL* is seen in our difficulties and how we respond. When we draw from anyone who will listen or turn to sources to find a glimpse of hope that shows us where our faith is placed. Who is *IMMANUEL*? That's our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:23) and we need to trust Him and Him only. He is our only hope! Think about it!!!

Brent