



“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 – April 15, 2018**

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

This summer on Wednesday evenings we will have a summer series teaching the book of First John. We will have several men from around the area to come teach us. It is a good thing to get to hear and know the men that work in our area, knowing we have such capable men able to “*handle accurately the word of truth.*” (II Timothy 2:15) We will begin this series on June 6. I pray that your heart is stirred to come listen and learn from these men from God’s word. Some of the men are from among our own number and I am thankful to the Lord for having them. The Lord gives opportunities to us and it’s wise to take advantage.

With this said I would like to add that teaching can be difficult. I know personally that teaching/preaching is one of the most difficult things I’ve ever taken on. It’s more than just sitting down and jotting a few thoughts on paper. Proper teaching is work! Teaching is a heart reaching to understand the things of God to convey His teachings to His people. But most of all, teaching brings with it such a seriousness because we as teachers are speaking for our Father and it must be true and accurate. Teachers represent God and His truth and God holds each one accountable for how they handle His truth. That’s what James speaks when he wrote by the Holy Spirit: “*Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.*” (James 3:1) Teachers must realize the importance of their role and the goal that God is wanting us to reach for in our teaching (I Timothy 1:5). Teaching is about instructing and giving insight to God so the “*love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith*” are gained in those listening. Teaching/preaching is not about “I think” or “I believe” but instructing in the reality and truth of God’s word.

For you, encourage our teachers. Pray for our teachers. We need humble, sincere men teaching. One thing that would help our teachers is if we, as listeners and students of God’s word, would prepare ourselves for classes. How many read before they come to a class what is going to be taught? Sometimes I realize in a topic study that is not possible, but when we are in a book study, prepare yourself for what you’re about to hear. I would encourage this.

May God bless each of you and my prayers are with this congregation. I pray each day for us. I love you dearly. Think about it!!!

Brent