



“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 – September 2, 2018**

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

*“Pure and undefiled religion is the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”* (James 1:27) In the sight of God, this is pure and undefiled religion. I want to focus on the last half of God’s word in this article, keeping ourselves unstained by the world.

I was filling up with gas and one of my grandchildren was with me. As we were sitting and waiting, I began looking at the establishment and all the signs. One sign was flashing beer emblems inviting all to come and drink. Another sign left of that said, *“Drink responsibly!”* In another window, a multi-colored lit sign said, *“Play Lotto!”* Below that a sign said, *“Win Millions!”* As I continued looking, there was a camel with a cigarette in his mouth puffing away, trying to look as cool as he could inviting all to come in and buy tobacco products. There was another sign on the door that spoke of a high energy drink to *“boost your day!”* Beside that sign another for buying some pills that would help you get over the “blahs.” Then there was a bourbon sign encouraging a smooth and tasty drink to the last drop making it look refreshing.

My mind began to think in terms of God and then it struck me, *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”* (1 Peter 5:8) The majority are never sober in spirit and alert. Most just plod along giving little thought of the spiritual power that takes so many down. Jesus prayed for His apostles: *“I do not ask You to take them out of the world but to keep them from the evil one.”* (John 17:15) In all this it made me realize that I too had been a part of all the corruption and did my part to help it spread. It made me thankful for being released by the blood of Christ but still the battle and attraction is there in many others ways.

As I looked about, I thought of my grandchildren and their innocence at this point. Unaware of what lies ahead children just move about with little care and concern, only love. But one day all my grandchildren will fall under this power called sin and death being trapped by the devil to do his bidding. Everyone needs a Savior!

As I thought through all this, my mind went to: *“We are looking for a new heavens and new earth, in which righteousness dwells. Therefore beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.”* (1 Peter 3:13-14)

Do you long for eternity with the Lord? Do you live with soberness of spirit and alertness knowing that sin is trying to take you down? In the end with the Lord, provided by His sacrifice, there will not be one hint of unrighteousness. Not one act nor one person practicing unrighteousness

will be a part of His that awaits us. There will be no signs flashing inviting us into the poison of this world that sits in the lap of the devil (I John 5:19). But until that day, we need to be sober in spirit about what we involve our lives in and spend our effort and money toward. Just open your eyes and look at the signs! Keep yourself unstained by the world. Think about it!!!

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