



“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 16, 2018**

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

The devil is real. Sin is real. The devil is crafty and uses sin to entangle and destroy the lives of people. The devil is no novice! He is cunning, deceitful, lying and very tactful in how he goes about to get people to participate in sin. The devil doesn't walk up to you and say, “Hey, I've come to wreck your life and bring you into ruin!”

We look around us and see the havoc the devil has caused upon many a person. People are miserable in their lives and homes are wrecked all because of the activity of Satan. Addictions of every kind are the power of sin the devil uses to enslave. Many are so blind to the insight of God that the devil has been a part of them and he wrecks their lives. *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”* (I Peter 5:8) The devil just doesn't want you to hurt but wants you devoured!! In his roaming about, people willingly submit to him without any idea they are doing it. As time moves on, one day the emotional distress, the unraveling of their lives and homes comes to the front and people wonder how. We need to sober up and be alert!

Paul was concerned for the church at Corinth, a place where he spent much time preaching/teaching. Now Paul teaches appealing to faith even with all their arguments, court cases, immorality and abusing the gifts of God that they were straying from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ (II Corinthians 11:3). The devil did it easily to Eve. Go back and read Genesis 3 carefully how the devil put reasoning in front of her, stating things that seemed logical so she accepted them as an alternative way of thinking. The rest is destructive history.

Today, the devil hasn't changed his approach at all. Homes are destroyed. Why? Because they are walking with the Lord? The Lord never destroys but only makes things better. As marriages deteriorate and ultimately consume themselves with lusts and sin, the devil is devouring. Couples who once loved one another, who helped one another, made a covenant relationship between them and the Almighty God become enemies, hateful and unloving.

Somewhere the devil was given access into lives and the devouring began. Young people are being trained by mom and dad how to love the world more than a love for God. Parents encourage their children that worship isn't important so God isn't important and off they go the way of the world. "*We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*" (I John 5:19) Many young adults destroy their lives. Do we understand that? To love the world more than God is what gives the devil entrance into our lives. The devil's goal is to take anyone belonging to God down and he does it craftily! People don't seem bothered. People don't see the power behind the things in this world. And we watch one after another destroyed simply because there is no soberness in spirit and alert to what is going on in their heart. Think about it!!!

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