Fairgrounds Road
CHURCH OF CHRIST
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 – March 22, 2020

Heart to Heart...

To be forgiven completely through the blood of Christ creates confidence! ***"And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in Him."*** (I John 4:16) Confidence comes from knowing the love of God toward you.

Do you have confidence in your relationship with God? To many, their confidence in the Lord and their salvation is very tentative. Some are just uncertain. Are you one of those? To be uncertain creates fear of judgment. There is no "*blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!"* That lack of assurance creates a doubt that God hears their prayers. ***"Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus."*** (Hebrews 10:19) The lack of assurance brings so many fears and doubts yet people continue to „hope" they make it in the end. No real seeking or approaching God, just going along with a wish and waiting to see.

Faith in the blood of Christ brings assurance to our lives. When difficulties hit, we can know that God hears our prayers and will always work things our best (Romans 8:28) because we love the Lord with all our heart and trust Him because He has forgiven us. The forgiveness of our sins is to bring us confidence in our eternal home. Judgment is for the lost, those unforgiven and not reconciled to God through the death of Jesus. There is no fear in God"s love. ***"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love."*** (I John 4:18) Love breeds confidence! ***"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you might know you have eternal life."*** (I John 5:13)

For one in Christ to be without confidence provides a poor example of living. They declare they believe in the Lord but live as if they do not know how God will respond to their needs or what will happen to them in face of death. When difficulties arise, they fear rather than trust. They talk about faith but live like the world.

Maybe we need to re-examine our lives and see if what we say is what we believe. Do we have a real assurance in the blood of Christ? That assurance will change your thinking, your desires and your direction. That assurance will be an example both to those in Christ and outside. Just think, why should our friends, co-workers, neighbors or family trust in the God of their salvation if we aren't showing that assurance and living for Him 100%? Confidence is Jesus and our salvation brings great blessings and holy living and that cannot be hidden. Think about it!!!

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