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 – May 9, 2021

Heart to Heart...

"This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder." (II Peter 3:1) Peter was convinced that the brethren who read his letter were of sincere minds and faith and he was going to remind them of some things for their spiritual well-being.

A person with a "sincere mind" wants to know, grasp hold of and do something with God's word they read and hear. A "sincere mind" is pure and unmixed from other things. ***"To the pure all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed."*** (Titus 1:15-16) People that aren't sincere in mind cannot be reached or helped. They are in the knowledge of thinking but the sincerity to follow is not there. All the teaching/preaching in the world cannot and will not have an effect on their hearts because there is no sincere faith. They simply do not listen much less respond to what God speaks. They are content with professing to know God but act in ways that aren't in line with God. ***"For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard."*** (Hebrews 4:2)

A "sincere mind" produces a "sincere faith." A faith that is pure and unmixed. A faith that moves with every word of the Lord and moving deeper and deeper into the love of Christ. A "sincere faith" is serious about the things of God and will not allow anything to detour them from letting the Lord lead them. ***"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."*** (I Timothy 1:5) The goal of all preaching/teaching should be found by the preacher/teacher and from those listening! What happens when preaching/teaching and listening/receiving is not this product? ***"For some men, straying from***

these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussions." (I Timothy 1:6) Fruitless discussions are where we spend our time and mind talking about things that are not helpful, but interested in controversial questions and disputes about words which lead to strife, abusive language, evil suspicions and constant friction (I Timothy 6:3-5).

A "sincere mind" and a "sincere faith" keep God in His proper place to make certain nothing interferes with God's desires. Peter wrote to stir up the brethren's "sincere mind." Paul told Timothy to preach/teach things that would produce a "sincere faith." The question for us: are we the people of God with that mindset and faith response? Think about it!!!

Brent