



"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 – December 18, 2022

Heart to Heart...

The ungodly, the helpless, without God, without hope, strangers to ANY covenant of promise, without Jesus. This is a description of all of us at one time. (Ephesians 2:12). We aren't basically good with some flaws. We stood at one time opposing God, without God, even when you were considered by others a 'nice' person even religious!!! We stood opposed to God and His will, giving no thought to what His desires are. (Look at the thousands of 'nice' people that have no desire to worship, to read His word or honor God. What does that say about our goodness?) Sin worked its desires in us, and we just naturally followed. ***"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another."*** (Titus 3:3) How many of these things were involved in our lives at some point? Have you ever been hateful to someone? These are all part of the world of sin and death! It is a normal life that the majority live around us. Immorality, impurity, passions and desires, greed, anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech was part of what we were living in at one time (Colossians 3:5,8). Have you ever told someone off? Didn't it feel good to do that? Sin operates like that, and it is enjoyable many times. Do you still find these in your life presently? It is on the account of things like all the above that the wrath of God will come because it is a life that the sons of disobedience follow (Colossians 3:6). The verdict of God makes an announcement: ***"For the wages of sin is death!"*** (Romans 6:23) It's not a physical death but a spiritual death and that spiritual death of separation from God's life and will extend to eternity. People that live in their sins while refusing God's truth are cut off from God,

finding no help from God and are all alone to face eternity away from God. Spiritual death means the only life in you is human life, no life from God. No amount of goodness or good deeds will change the outcome or relationship! You sin, you die!!! Works considered righteous in the eyes of man cannot and do not cancel our death! Our VERY BEST is what brought about the death of Jesus. Don't lose heart here! I want us to realize the seriousness of our lives. Let it impact you and read the above two paragraphs again. That's who we were and that's who we live among every day of our lives! And how many take their advice from the dead? We see people do kind deeds, living honest and productive lives but that does not eliminate the wages of sin. The verdict still stands: *"For the wages of sin is death!"* Death: separation from God, sin as our master and there are consequences to follow.

Here came the Lamb of God into our world from the heart of God. He lays down His life. He offers His life to be snuffed out in our place. His life was taken from Him while His limp body hung from the cross. He submitted His life to the will of God and paid the wages of our sins. Being united with Him in baptism, we came in contact with His death and in His blood to be raised up one with Him (Romans 6). The result: SALVATION AND LIFE! Life, the life of God begins living in our hearts and souls. What did you do to earn this? What did Jesus do to free us from death? From our death into His life set us free from the corruption in the everyday world around us. Where are you going to live each day from this point? Are you going to live like those in death? In malice, anger, enslaved to various pleasures and lusts? Are we going to listen to the dead on how to solve life's problems? It all depends on if you have been raised with Jesus and possessing His life! Think about it!!!

Brent