



"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 – January 1, 2023

Heart to Heart...

Another year has quickly passed. With each passing year, month and day, it should remind us of this reality: *"Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed."* "Awaken" says that if we have been lazy in our spiritual lives, we need to wake up and take note we are much closer to seeing the Lord face to face as time passes. Too many are living as if the Lord doesn't even exist, or His words mean little to them.

As we reflect, so many things have changed for all of us but the one thing, the eternal One never changes, and we can always count on Him to keep His word. God will never lie or act in an unrighteous way. In fact, Scriptures teach us it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18). From our children to parents, to grandparents and others who have never married, we are headed for eternity as God has promised. Think about your life and the commitments you made and are making. Is your mind set on eternity? We have watched brethren decide they no longer need the Lord. One might ask: *"But how can you say that one quits believing in the Lord?"* It is very simple. *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"* (Luke 6:46) To love the Lord, to prepare for eternity means our faith is directed toward Him and His word. He is serious to us. We take the Supper each first day of the week with His body remembering His sacrifice and covenant. Where are those who use to do that with us while fellowshiping Jesus? That's a direct reflection of our faith toward Jesus. Some walk away from the Lord so easily. No response, no concern, no love for His people (I Peter 2:17) and little preparation for eternity. Faith is lost. Many make up their own belief system about what they accept and reject. What a tragedy. What a pain. But is that me?

Eternity! That's a major word. Eternity. All we can grasp is a number of years. Eternity. We are headed there no matter what you want to believe or say because God said it is coming for each one of us. I want to encourage each of us, instill in the heart of your children eternity! Be

honest in your heart knowing you are closer now to your salvation (as long as we are holding on to the Lord with an honest heart) than we were a year ago. Take an honest inventory. Too many are living for the now and it dominates their lives and thinking. One simply cannot serve two masters. It is impossible! (Matthew 6:24) Let's end with Jesus speaking: ***“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*** The things we expend our lives for on this earth will simply not matter in eternity unless you are growing in faith and teaching your children the same. Think about it!!!

Brent