



"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 – February 12, 2023

Heart to Heart...

What are you seeking? When you assemble in the name of the Lord, what are you looking for?

When a message is preached, what do you hear? It depends on what you seek!

Paul preached and the multitude heard. *"Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, 'We shall hear you again concerning this.' So Paul went out of their midst. But some men joined him and believed..."* (Acts 17:32-33) One message, heard by all but with vastly different results. Some sneered! Some would think about it to discuss it later! Some believed it! The differences weren't found in the message but in the hearers! Their attitude toward the message is what formed what they each heard and how they reacted. One message with completely different results because of what was going on in the heart of those hearing.

Nothing has changed since preaching began. The responses to a message are the result of what is happening in the heart of the hearer. Paul instructed the preacher to preach the word (II Timothy 4:2). I must fulfill my God-given instruction! Preach the word! In the preaching of God's message, it will stir some different thoughts. God confronts us with our attitudes and behavior. We call it stepping on toes but in reality, God speaks to change our hearts and behavior. Does it hurt sometimes? Yes. But preaching the word of God is where God brings about attitude and heart changes in the hearers, if that's what the hearers are looking for. That's called faith! Those that are calloused and rebellious, they will sneer or attack. God is accomplishing His work!

When you assemble in the name of the Lord, what are you seeking? If your attitude is already on edge, what will you hear? A word not spoken rightly or a misstep with pronunciations? Are we the ones that Jude speaks of as grumblers, finding fault (Jude 16)? What are you looking for? By faith, with an attitude of thanksgiving, we should all be looking for guidance to heaven from heaven! We shouldn't be focused on anything but a message from the Lord helping us all walk a path of righteousness with a heart of faith. Otherwise, some will sneer, others will just put off the message and some will believe. It all depends on the condition of the heart. Let's ask again, what are you seeking today? Think about it!!!

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