



"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 24, 2024

Heart to Heart...

The underlying attitude in worship should be a reverence for God that results in behavior that's meant to please Him. It is impossible to love and admire someone without knowing what pleases them. That's what the Hebrew writer points to: "Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe." (Hebrews 12:28)

If we are to deepen our sense of joy and contentment in our worship of God, our understanding of Him must be deepened also. Peter points us to that: "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." (II Peter 1:2) Grace and peace are gained in deeper ways by coming to a true knowledge of God. Peter having walked with Jesus face to face puts a great emphasis on knowing the Lord. Too many are viewing "knowing the Lord" as just information they gain from this source or that. Knowing is not about bringing our lives into an information arena of facts. It's living and walking where the Father asks us to live and walk that pleases Him. It's not some code of conduct that we stick out our chests and say, "Look at me! I'm following the Lord's commands!!!" Coming into the knowledge of

God is where one seeks His likeness. “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Ephesians 5:1-2) When we have a dear friend we love and admire, we don’t isolate the virtues they have. We admire and love the person! So it will be when we worship God!! Qualities and virtues don’t hear prayers. Our heavenly Father does. Qualities, values, and virtues don’t have mercy and grace. Our God does. Qualities and virtues don’t feel compassion, show faithfulness, and redeem us from sin. Our Lord God does. Qualities, values, and virtues do not forgive. Our God does.

In saying all this, this should impact those who lead us and direct us toward a richer and purer worship both in our personal life and in our corporate worship as Christ’s body. Those leading should not be a show or calling attention to themselves. They should be showing a reverence and awe for God, offering an acceptable worship to Him because He is worthy of our worship. The worshiper is not to be the factor. Pleasing our Father is the factor. Honoring and adoring Him should be the drive. We need a deeper understanding of our Father, coming to know Him in a much deeper way so we can call on His name and honor His name while we simply do things that please Him, not us! Think about it!!!

Brent