



"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 – April 14, 2024

Heart to Heart...

Most call it "going to church." The Scriptures never call it that. That phrase sounds like someone attending a ballgame or party. It comes across as something to which many want entertainment or expect someone to reach out to them in some sort of experience. With this mind-set no wonder many make little spiritual gain. They are looking for something to be given to them rather than what they offer to the Lord!

Why do people come? God knows! They are young and old, some smiling, some frowning. Some are easy going while others aren't so easy. Some come with attitudes to encourage while others levitate to certain people while ignoring others. Some come with moodiness. Some come to see friends. Some come because their parents make them. Some come strictly out of duty and obligation. Still others come because they believe it's important to their children. Some come because there is a young man or woman who has caught their attention. There are so many reasons for coming together but at the center, God is aware of each intention of each individual heart.

There are those who come simply because of the grace of God they received through the death of Jesus. They gather simply to thank God with those who want to thank God. And there is so much to thank God for!

Some come seeking forgiveness. Oh, they realize it's not the church that forgives, or the preacher, or the elders. But sometimes forgiveness is found there in the presence of their Lord and Savior, in the midst of His people that are dedicated and committed to His cause. They find a cleansing for their soul in the midst of worshipping God with God's people while honoring God from their heart.

There are those who come seeking God to challenge their faith to a deeper trust and commitment they cannot find anywhere else. They want to be stirred in their heart, confronted by God through His word, communing with the Lord in His Supper and they take their blood-bought lives seriously.

There are those who want to worship in a sincere and respectful atmosphere with their brothers and sisters. Their daily lives are busy, rushing from one thing to another but today, this is the day the Lord has made for worship. They reflect quietly just giving praise and honor to their Savior for their salvation.

There are those who simply want to hear again the gospel of God in His search for them! They are amazed at the love shown on Calvary. The life of Jesus consoles them. They draw strength to face an up-coming week with all the vile and ungodly behavior surrounding them while they hold up the cross of Christ before the eyes of a lost, sin-filled world.

No matter how we cut it, it all boils down to this: we do this together as His body of His people! Together we sing as one. As His congregation, we pray as one person shapes our prayer for us, to which we say, "AMEN!" We place ourselves under the guidance of His word as one body, His body. We share our blessings in our sacrifice of giving as one in Jesus Christ. The Supper is passed and we take it as one. We witness people repent. We see people baptized into the name of Jesus and our hearts are over-joyed as our eyes fill with tears because we share in His one body!

Yes, we do this thing called "going to church" but in reality, to the saved it is assembling to worship and we aren't alone. We gather as His people and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. He notices! He is aware! We come together because our Leader is one with us and we do it as one! Think about it!!!

Brent