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ARE WE FRIENDS OF JESUS?

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with GOD, and the Word was GOD.”

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of he only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”
(John 1:1 & 14)

My friend, when you come to the point of death, whether you experience the “inexpressible” joy of heavendddd or the absolutely inexpressible horror of hell, will depend upon what you did in this life with the Word of GOD. Your eternal future depends not necessarily upon the words of your mouth but upon the meditation of your heart.

“For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”
(1 Samuel 16:7)

“I the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.
(Jeremiah 17:10)

For nearly 20 years now, your writer has been consumed with a hunger for FATHER’S word and a burden for the church. Over the years FATHER has brought across my path many saints from various parts of the country and from several foreign lands that have a like hunger and burden. It is as if FATHER sent each one of us the same song sheet. And while we may express ourselves differently, our message is the same – “wake up church before it is eternally too late, and turn back to JESUS alone for your solution.” This could only be GOD – BECAUSE Lucifer would never point men only to JESUS and to His word. Never!

Now I must tell you that while my zeal for the Lord are continually increasing, I am at the same time becoming more and more aware of just how unworthy I really am. This writer has yet to completely overcome his stinking flesh. Coldness of heart, pride, lust and unclean lips continue to attempt to destroy my witness for our King. And so my cry is – “OK GOD have mercy on me”! In and of myself, there is no good thing - no good thing! Were it not for the blood of Christ, I realize that we could not even speak our FATHER’S name and live. Before GOD I must tell you that this writer has absolutely nothing to brag about. The only thing I have to offer go our GOD is a heart’s desire to be His friend. That’s all!

As I have wondered why FATHER has done the work in many of us that He has, realizing just how unworthy and unprepared that we are, I have come to the conclusion that it is because many of us are free to speak out without the fear of man. Our jobs are not at stake, we are not looking to start a new Christian work and we are not selling anything or trying to get into the pocket books of the saints. Our only desire is to be “true” friends of JESUS and if it costs us our friends and he left foot of fellowship from what we call the church, then that’s OK. As His friend, our desire is that He might find us worthy to be used to encourage and challenge our brothers and sisters to ‘full maturity’ in Him – to be all that they can be to Him – to be all that they can be to Him, to bring Him pleasure and to add to His circle of “true friends”, we care not for anything else!

Today, in relation to the whole of those who call themselves Christians, our Lord JESUS CHRIST has very few “true friends”, very few indeed. There are untold millions of Christians who say they “believe in” JESUS, but so very few who “believe JESUS”. Our mouths say one thing but our actions speak louder than our words and for too often contradict what we have said, “JESUS described His friends in John 15:14 when He said:

“You are my friends if you do whatever I command you.”

In fact, FATHER’S word tells us that if we do not do what JESUS has told us to do, that we do not love Him. Listen to the words of John.

“Now by this we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, “I know Him”, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in Him.” (1 John 2:3 & 4)

When our Lord was here on earth He drew multitudes of people because of His works. Mainly healed the sick and cast our demons. This will always draw a crowd, even today. However, when JESUS began to preach the holy Word of His FATHER, the same word we have today, the crowds left Him, even to the point on one occasion where He asked if His own disciples wanted to leave Him. (See John 6:60-67) He turned to the twelve and said:

“Do you also want to go away?”

At the end of His ministry on earth the religious of that time, murdered GOD in the form of man, only because of the Word He spoke and for no other reason. Today many of us have call ourselves Christians are once again deserting JESUS and turning our backs to the cross as we reject His word and accept instead man’s version of His word. May GOD have mercy! Isaiah the prophet spoke of the church today when he wrote the following words:

Therefore the Lord said:

“Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and Their fear toward Me is taught by the commandments of men.”

This condition resulted then, as well as today in GOD removing wisdom and understanding from His people. (See Isaiah 29:3 & 14)

FATHER was also dealing with a people in the days of Ezekiel that were much like we are today. Listen –

“So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, and they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain. Indeed you are to them as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well on an instrument: for they hear your words, but they do not do them.” (Ezekiel 33:31,32)

Nothing much as changed in the hearts of GOD’S people from about 570 B.C to the year of 2002 A.D. In fact, I believe our condition is much worse when you consider how much we have been given. WE have the risen Christ and His recorded word. WE have thousands of books, tapes, videos, etc., etc., Not to mention a church house on nearly every corner equipped with the latest electronic tools to stimulate the

emotions of the people. We have even had the gifts of the Holy Spirit restored in the Church. And with all of these blessings we still find ourselves turning away from His word. Oh GOD have mercy!

If we turn to the “red letters” of FATHER’S holy word and use them and them alone to determine the true condition of what we call the church – we quickly realize that we are spiritually sick indeed. If you believe otherwise you either have rejected FATHER’S word as literal truth or you are intellectually dishonest. GOD is serious about His word because He and His word are one. When we reject the word of GOD, we reject GOD whether we realize it or not, and in so doing we are attempting to elevate ourselves to the place of GOD and on to His throne. Oh, GOD have mercy! This is serious business! Life and death, Heaven and hell hang in the balance.

“My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out
of My lips.” (Psalm 89:34)

“Let GOD be true but every man a liar.” (Romans 3:4)

This writer has found that there are many who call themselves Christians, including some preachers, that will break fellowship with you and even become angry if you speak according to FATHER’S words, a word of correction or rebuke to their Church. In fact, I have found that people become very defensive and emotional when their church or their ministry comes under the close scrutiny of FATHER’S sharp sword. Their first loyalty is to what they perceive to be ‘the Church’ and not to JESUS. Their intentions are good as far as I can tell, but their hearts have become divided. This condition is not an exception, but rather is the rule today. Now we have literally thousands upon thousands of little Kingdoms calling themselves a part of the true Church. For the most part, these Kingdoms are void of any fear of GOD. They are void of the love of the brethren except maybe those of their own. Many of them sincerely believe that GOD is well pleased with their behavior. As we point to our own good works we are deceived in to believing that even if we do reject some of FATHER’S word, surely He will not be too angry. But listen to what He said in Jeremiah 4:22:

“For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly
children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to evil,
but to do good they have no knowledge.” (Jeremiah 4:22)

The true remnant, the Bride of Christ, the Church is only fully known by our FATHER. He is the only one who knows whose name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. (See Revelation 21:22). You may be a Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Charismatic, etc., etc., but that will not qualify you to enter into heaven. If you are looking to your church or your pastor or your priest or the Pope or Mary, or some other saint for your salvation, you are going to be eternally sorrowful. And if you do not turn to JESUS alone and His word alone, I must tell you that you will find yourself in hell from which there is no escape. Loyalty, first to JESUS, and to His word, must come before all else! If your heart is divided between JESUS and your church – between JESUS and your job – between JESUS and your family – between JESUS and your ministry or between JESUS and anything else, then I must tell you that you are not a “true friend” of JESUS. If you continue to carry on a spiritually, adulterous affair with your other love, you run the risk of becoming just like Judas iscariot. Instead of hearing JESUS say to you, “Welcome My faithful friend”, you will hear him say – (I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (See Matthew 7:21-23) May GOD have mercy!

Our GOD’S attitude toward spiritual adultery is the same as in man’s attitude when his or her mate is unfaithful.

“-----for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous GOD.”

(Exodus 34:14)

“For the Lord, your GOD is a consuming fire, a jealous GOD.”

(Deuteronomy 4:24)

Our Lord, JESUS CHRIST, called the people of GOD to Himself and demanded total loyalty to Himself. Listen –

“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

He who find his life will love it, and he who loses his life my sake will find it.”

(JESUS speaking Matthew 11:37-39)

JESUS also warned us that total loyalty to Him could cause division in one’s own family. Again, listen to His own words in Luke 12:51-53.

“Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three.

Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother, against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

Loyalty to JESUS and to JESUS alone has always brought about division among those who were called Christians or the people of GOD. Always! Those of us who call ourselves Christians today are no different from those of the past that FATHER had to apply His judgment to in an effort to bring them to repentance and into a walk of righteousness. (See Isaiah 26:9-11). You may be assured that our FATHER will be faithful to His word, whether you or I believe His word or not. And in that faithfulness He will apply His judgement to what we call “The Church” before He applies that final judgement to the world.

”For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of GOD; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of GOD? Now, if the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the Ungodly and the sinner appear?”

(1 Peter 4:17,18)

My brothers and sisters I pray that you will flee from any voice that would tell you that obedience to the gospel is not critical to your right standing with JESUS. In addition, I pray that you will not be deceived by that one who would tell you that GOD is not going to judge the church before He judges the world. Such teaching defies the gospel of GOD and of those who so teach, Paul said in Galatians 1:18 -

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”

FATHER'S judgment on the church is motivated by His love for us and is applied in love, to cause us to repent and turn our hearts toward holiness and righteousness. His judgement is designed to remove the spots and wrinkles from our hearts. (See Ephesians 5:27) We could avoid much of FATHER'S judgement if we were not so stiff-necked and rebellious toward His word. When it comes to obedience to our FATHER'S word we are very slow to catch on, very slow indeed. And so we now find ourselves in a spiritual mess. Virtually all fear, reverence and respect for GOD'S has let the church. Instead of confessing our faults one to another (See James 5:16) we boast about who we are in JESUS. Instead of uncovering our iniquities, most 'self designated' prophets have prophesied peace, peace when there is no peace. (See Jeremiah 6:14) and even though we know, or should know, that GOD has called us to repent, to expose our iniquity and turn from our evil ways, we definitely refuse to do so and in so doing, we bring much reproach on the true Body of Church – the Church. Oh, GOD have mercy. Have Mercy!

The world sees our hypocrisy and openly mocks not only us, but our GOD as well. Does this not bother you? Do you care at all for the reputation of our Lord, JESUS CHRIST, and for the integrity of His word? Do you? Is your heart troubled at all that we - those of us who call ourselves followers of Christ, have brought so much shame on His Church? The Church as we know it today is, for the most part, not reflecting holiness, bur rather she reflects worldliness. Instead of reflecting unity, we reflect division. Instead of reflecting spiritual poverty, meekness and humility, we reflect religious pride. Instead of weeping at the alter for the abominations that are done within the church, we are laughing. Instead of calling the people to repentance, we are calling them to another "how to" conference. Instead of trembling before His word, we mock it with our doubt and unbelief. Oh GOD have mercy!

When the people of GOD behaved as we are now, in the days of Jeremiah, GOD said:

“But this is what I commanded them saying, “Obey My voice, and I will be your GOD, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.

Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and sent backward and not forward.

(Jeremiah 7:23,24)

“This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the Lord their GOD nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth.”

(Jeremiah 7:28)

Whenever we find ourselves as we are today, FATHER always raises up the prophetic voice to warn the people, before He sends judgement. Today we cannot say that we have not been warned, because we have. However, our response, for the most part, has been the same as it was in days of old. Exactly the same!

“But they mocked the messengers of GOD, despised His words,

and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose

against His people, tell there was no remedy.” Z92 Chronicles 36:16)

Whenever our GOD sends a warning, such as this message, it is rarely heeded or taken seriously. Rather, we will label the messenger as having a critical or judgmental spirit, unloving, too negative and void of grace. But FATHER will keep on sending the message and the messenger, until when we least expect it, His rod of discipline will fall and the pain will hopefully turn us back to Him. However, in the meantime,

thousands upon thousands upon thousands of people will die in their iniquity and plunge into hell. They were members of a church had been baptized and many were what we call good people. They gave their tithe, attended church regularly and even served in leadership in the church. The only problem was they were not loyal friends of JESUS. They knew His word, but did not take Him at His word. They practiced lawlessness and sincerely believed that JESUS loved them too much to require of them obedience and loyalty to Himself and to His word. After all they were freed from the law and all of its requirements. They never really cared for the reputation of our Lord. Oh they would defend their church or their ministry all right, but when it came to upholding FATHER'S' word, if it were going to cost them some pain, they would always compromise with man. They died having a head full of GOD'S word and the heart of a traitor and of those persons our Lord said:

“Not anyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My FATHER in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in your name and done many wonders in your name?

And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me,

You who practice lawlessness!” (Matthew 7:21-23)

I close realizing that this message will fall on an awful lot of deaf ears and that grieves me and brings a deep sadness to my heart. What lies ahead for many, does not have to be if they would only listen and turn their heart back to our FATHER and to His Word. You see it is not about being perfect in this life, rather it is about having a heart that is bent toward perfection. It's all about openly acknowledging our sinful condition, asking for mercy and help. It is all about honesty before GOD and man. That's all FATHER asks of us, nothing more.

Today our Lord counts as His friends only those who have hearts that are devoted to Him alone regardless of the personal cost. How about you my friend, what stands between your heart and GOD? What keeps you from His true circle of friends? For many of us, it is religion and our loyalty to a theology, a doctrine, an institution or a person that is greater than our loyalty to the One to whom we will one day give an account. Pray for total freedom in JESUS and then turn to Him and to Him alone. He will meet you and bless you beyond anything that you can imagine. And the Angels will know you and refer to you as “A friend of the King”!

GOD BLESS

Tom

