

Sunday, 01 July 2007
John 15:9-16

Joh 15:9-16 As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. **I no longer call you slaves,** because a slave does not know what his master is doing. **I have called you friends,** because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

What a friend we have in Jesus.

As I read this piece of scripture I was once again reminded about the wonderful privilege we have of serving a living God. Our Saviour is so different from all the other so-called gods. Our Saviour is not asking of us to bring Him gifts and sacrifices, thereby trying to win His favour. Our Saviour is not demanding works to impress Him, before contemplating if we will be deserving to receive eternal life. No, He came to us, and gave it to us. He brought it to a world of undeserving people, offering His life to be not only a God to us, but also to call us His friends.

So often we forget this basic truth. We tend to forget what it is that God wants from us. It would be so much easier maybe if we could by actions and offerings buy our way into heaven, but that will not work. Our Saviour is asking us to have a living relationship with Him. He is asking for us to spend time with Him, and to learn from Him.

What do I have to do to ensure that I will one day be in Heaven? I asked this question to a group of about 40 teenagers once. I started by giving each one an opportunity to answer this. The answers started with, going to church, reading my Bible, be obedient, listening to my parents, obeying the ten commandments, and many more. But, these answers are all wrong. Although there is nothing wrong with these actions, and they should be part of any Christian's life, they will however not ensure me a place in Heaven. What then must the answer be? The answer: Accepting the Lord, Jesus Christ as our only Lord and Saviour, and living in a real relationship with Him. That is what will ensure us a place in Heaven.

Our Saviour is standing at the door of your heart, knocking, and waiting for you to invite Him in, so that the two of you can have a relationship, and in order for Him to be closer to you than even your best friend. The choice is yours. You may choose to keep the door shut, or you can open that door, and know the feeling of having Him as a saviour and Friend, that will never leave you nor forsake you in your times of need.

* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. david@davidniebuhr.com

For More Messages like this one, please visit www.davidniebuhr.com