

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

Men are without excuse before GOD. All men are completely accountable for their own thoughts and actions regardless of what they might consider the cause of those thoughts and actions to be. We see in John’s Gospel the account of the LORD JESUS CHRIST being brought before Pilate to be judged in a place called the “Pavement”. It is fitting that the LORD JESUS should be judged by men in a place made of many stones, for we read that HE is the CHIEF CORNERSTONE. The Psalmist said, *“The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.”* Peter goes on to say; *“Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”*

JESUS CHRIST is the ROCK of OFFENCE, or “stone of division”. The LORD JESUS said, *“And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”* It is impossible that a man can be indifferent to CHRIST, either he will fall upon his face and worship HIM or fall under the wrath of GOD. *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* The LORD JESUS CHRIST stood in this judgment hall (constructed by the hands of wicked men) according to the predestined purpose of ALMIGHTY GOD. When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, he made reference to this very fact. *“Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”* It was necessary to fulfill the purpose of GOD in the redemption of HIS chosen people that HE would be rejected by men and put to death as a malefactor. *“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”*

Though all men without exception are worthy of destruction for their sin and disregard for the ONE sent by GOD, yet the LORD does manifest HIS mercy towards the sons of GOD by obtaining their redemption and causing them to repent of their wickedness and look upon this CHIEF CORNERSTONE as “precious”. Man has no right to pass any sort of judgment at all upon the ONE who *“rules in the heavens and among the inhabitants of the earth”*. Yet here at this “pavement” we see both Jews and Gentiles alike questioning and condemning HIM who is the *“fullness of the GODHEAD bodily”*. What arrogance that any worm of the dust should think it in any wise proper to judge the JUDGE of all the earth.

While it is clear that this examination was a contrived one which dared to put the LORD of all the earth on trial, yet in the common preaching of our day men are called upon to do the same thing as if they had that right and ability to continue to do so. We often hear men plead with others to “accept the LORD”, to “let the LORD in their heart”, or to otherwise make some sort of judgment on HIM whose way is past finding out. The underlying notion behind such “preaching” is that man is some sort of “sovereign” over his own “free will” and does indeed hold the LORD hostage until he makes up his mind as to whether or not to “allow” the LORD (who according to them is wringing HIS hands in hope that they will choose HIM) to save him. The dire predicament that all men are in by nature does not afford them either the position, nor the ability to make such a “choice”. All men are “dead in trespasses and sins”, and without hope. Men cannot and will not choose the way of the LORD.

It is the height of arrogance for any potsherd of the earth to think that he might “contend” or bargain with HIM who has the power to *“destroy both soul and body in hell”*. This is why the LORD said that HE had hid these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them unto babes. None shall be saved except that man for whom the LORD JESUS CHRIST did obtain eternal redemption. They are those who are made manifest by a broken and contrite heart which are made to see their own just destruction played out before their very eyes and compelled to cast themselves upon the mercy of the Eternal JUDGE. *“Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee.”*

“Thy free grace alone,” #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net**