

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

Ninety eight per cent of all of the books in so called “christian” bookstores are essentially worthless because they are written with the premise that man has within himself the ability to come to the LORD and to please HIM and earn HIS favor and blessing. Most of these books are written for the purpose of stirring men up to action and activity in the name of the LORD. To say that they are “man-centered” would be an understatement. If you want to find an easy one, two, three step method for getting crowds, building “churches”, understanding the necessary psychology of dealing with different age groups and ethnicity, how to balance your life, have a happy marriage, or any number of religious activities which seem to be a good idea then the shelves are full. All of them are instruction manuals about “pleasing god” and “doing good deeds” both of which men are assured they can do.

The message that Paul preached (which is the true gospel) takes away all hope that any man may ever entertain that he could please GOD through some deed of the flesh. He taught that the LORD chose some upon which HE would bestow the gift of eternal life, (based not on any merit or good seen in them but) simply because of HIS free choice and grace. The natural man hates the doctrine of unconditional election because it totally strips away any place that a man might find to glory in before almighty GOD. When GOD is pleased to show a man that all men without exception are worthy of destruction and that the only reason that any of them are rescued from it, is the sovereign mercy of GOD, then that man’s mouth will be shut before GOD and all glorying in the flesh will cease. The only difference between the man who perishes and the man who is given eternal life is the distinguishing grace of GOD. As Paul said, *“lest any man should boast”*.

Religion, morality, and boasting go hand in hand, they are peas in a pod. It is impossible for men to consider the value of their religion and good deeds without taking some measure of pride in them, even some credit for reaching a lofty plateau in contrast to others. Just like the Pharisee who *“stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.”* He honestly assessed himself in this fashion just as many do today, some who even claim to believe in salvation by grace. Most religious and moral men are sure that they are more acceptable in the sight of GOD than those who are “less” religious and moral such as this publican (i.e.; government tax collector, an IRS agent, if you will) which the Pharisee compared himself to. There is no difference between the man who considers that he can earn GOD’s favor and merit blessings in this life by his good deeds and religious faithfulness and the one who is persuaded that he can earn eternal glory by the same method.

All moralists and religious men (of whatever type) consider that by their observances and lawkeeping that they can indeed curry favor with GOD. *“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”* Yet when men are awakened (by grace) to see the true nature of their own heart and the perfections of GOD and HIS law, they will truly despair of ever pleasing HIM by any deed of the flesh and abandon all hope of merit based on human endeavor.

The gift of GOD, salvation by HIS grace, is the absolute end of all glorying in the flesh for those made aware of their need of such a gift. The average religionist figures that they can operate “in faith” and “of faith” by their own effort. Yet that faith which is mentioned here is the gift of GOD as a result of HIS grace. It is bestowed by HIS hand according to HIS sovereign mercy. This faith spoken of here, is purely objective, it is the faith of CHRIST. Just as Abraham “believed GOD” and was justified so are the sons of GOD. Yet we are not “justified” by our act of faith but by the object of faith which is JESUS CHRIST. We have been given eyes to see that HE alone is our righteousness before a holy GOD. HE is our sanctification. HE has obeyed the law for us. HE has purchased eternal redemption and temporal blessings for us. We believe and are sure that HE is the CHRIST the SON of the living GOD. Flesh and blood has not revealed this to us, but our FATHER which is in heaven. This gift of faith is the revelation to men of the absolute sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST to meet all of their needs and heal all of their diseases. HE is our MEDIATOR, our PHYSICIAN, our HELP in time of trouble, our PROPHET, our PRIEST, and our KING. *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”*

In what do you glory?

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