

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

If one were to believe the talking points of most conservative talk show pundits and the language of many who call themselves gospel preachers, the conclusion could be made that the country which we are blessed to dwell in is a “Christian Nation”. In fact; if a poll were made of the citizens of this great nation, most would probably be of the same opinion. The natural man loves religion and nothing is more common than those who claim the religion of “Christianity”, who nonetheless despise the true gospel and the precepts which CHRIST HIMSELF espoused. We are not surprised nor alarmed at this since this is simply the way of the flesh which delights in a religion which they believe can be chosen by free will and embraced in various levels and degrees while going about their lives as they please. The tares and the wheat must grow together until the time of the harvest when the LORD HIMSELF will manifest the wheat, which is of HIS planting, and will separate it from the tares.

The English word “separated” appears thirty-three times in the KJV Bible. The literal meaning of those words which are translated “separated” is “to set off by a boundary, to exclude, appoint, or to divide, to distinguish, or make a difference”. When Paul speaks of being “*separated unto the gospel of GOD*”, he is pointing out that the LORD excluded him from that tradition and people which he had formerly been associated with. He is speaking of the fact that the gospel and the CHRIST who called him out of darkness and into the light, has made him to be divided from all other religious pursuits.

The LORD speaks of this “separation” when HE said, “*Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.*” So there can be no such thing as a “Christian Nation”, because the LORD does not “call” nations unto HIMSELF, but rather those whom HE loves out of every kindred tribe and tongue. The followers of CHRIST can not be aligned with, nor have fellowship with, any who walk in darkness, regardless of their affiliation or familial ties, nor can they have any king but HIM who is the KING of Kings and the LORD of Lords. There is but one “brotherhood”, and that is founded upon CHRIST alone and not shared external religious preferences however they may be defined. The “brethren” are those who worship CHRIST in SPIRIT and TRUTH in contrast to those who are so in name only.

Paul was not “separated”, simply because he desired to be peculiar, but rather he was separated by the “call” of JESUS CHRIST, which he could have in no wise refused or chosen not to follow. The LORD said that HE calls HIS own sheep by name, and they follow HIM. Paul was powerless before this call, by HIM who “*separated (him) unto the gospel*”, His “separation” took place according to the will and purpose of GOD and was accomplished by HIS mighty power, who knows them that are HIS, and gives eternal life to all who are given to HIM.

Every one of those whom the LORD is pleased to call, is “*separated*” by the same POWER that laid Paul on the ground and struck him blind on the Damascus road. This “separation” did not take place on the spur of the moment, nor did GOD decide to bring this calling to Paul on the basis of any decision which Paul made. Rather, as he told the Galatians, he was “*separated from his mother’s womb*”, even from the very beginning. He was created to be a follower of CHRIST in whom he was chosen before the foundation of the world.

Paul’s “separation” was “*unto the Gospel*”. There is but one message which is at the heart of all which the people of GOD rejoice in and believe. Paul described this “gospel” as “*JESUS CHRIST and HIM crucified*”. HE is the HOPE of HIS people, “*But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.*” The confidence of those who are “*the called according to HIS purpose*”, is not in their ability to believe, nor in any form of effort on their part, but rather it rests solely on that which JESUS CHRIST has performed for them.

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