

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

Each time that we read of “salvation” in the scriptures we find that it is speaking of something which is certain, provided by the LORD, and not in any wise left to chance or the free will of men. *“For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.”* Yet when we hear the prevailing message of this present age (which purports to be the preaching of the gospel) we hear salvation set forth as an open ended opportunity or proposition, which is offered and made available to all men to take advantage of and in the process to make a bargain with GOD which will result in their deliverance from an eternal hell. Any one in his right mind would desire to escape the horrors of the pit of destruction which is described as outer darkness and a lake of fire if he comes to believe in its reality.

In order to know what salvation is, one must first know what it is that men need to be saved from. While there is a pit of destruction which is prepared for the devil and his angels and for all of those whose names are not recorded in the Book of LIFE, the sons of GOD who are the objects of SALVATION were never appointed unto this display of the wrath of GOD. *“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.”* and are therefore not properly spoken of as “saved from hell”. Having said that; we are quite certain that all men, even the elect, are in and of themselves worthy of this same destruction since *“all have sinned and come short of the glory of GOD.”* and in that measure we can indeed speak of having been delivered from this destruction by the blood of CHRIST. Just as surely as HE has seen fit to make us subject unto the vanity of this world HE has seen fit to deliver us from it, and JESUS CHRIST has come into the world to pay the debt of sin which HIS people owed as members of the human race. HE would be both JUST and the JUSTIFIER of those who are manifested as the sons of GOD by believing in HIM, becoming sin for them that they might be made the righteousness of GOD in HIM.

Sin is an attitude of rebellion against GOD and is ingrained in the very flesh of the natural man. That SALVATION which is wrought by CHRIST for the sons of GOD deals with that very problem. The LORD came to *“save HIS people from their sins”*, not just from the punishment which was rightly due to them as lawbreakers, but from the very “attitude of sin” itself. HE told HIS disciples that it was necessary for HIM to go away that HE might send to them another COMFORTER (the HOLY SPIRIT).

HE said this COMFORTER would lead them into all truth and would reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. It is this very operation of the “convincing” (or reprovng) us of our sin that stirs up the heart to continually cry out to HIM for mercy, even as the publican in the temple. It is that same SPIRIT who teaches us of our own innate depravity even as the Apostle Paul lamented , *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?(and then exulted) I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

So what is “salvation”? It is the work of CHRIST in redemption wherein HE has delivered HIS people from their “sin”. It is an external work wherein HE has forever satisfied the claims of the Law against them as lawbreakers (i.e.; “the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”), imputing to them HIS righteousness and taking upon HIMSELF their sin as a SUBSTITUTE.

It is also an internal work wherein HE does deliver them from the bondage of sin, which primarily manifests itself as an attitude of open rebellion against HIM. While they are still left in this world and engaged in the trials of their corruptible flesh, they are nonetheless made new creatures to whom all things are become new. Whereas once sin reigned in them without rival, the SPIRIT of the LIVING GOD does dwell in them causing them to will and to do of HIS good pleasure. The old man is crucified with CHRIST, and the new man is made alive unto GOD. Paul said, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

So to whom does salvation belong? David knew the answer as he fled from the armies of Absalom, saying *“Salvation belongeth unto the LORD”*. He had no other confidence, most certainly not in anything he could accomplish by his own hand. Even as Jonah declared in the belly of the great fish which the LORD had prepared to swallow him, *“Salvation is of the LORD.”* It was as this revelation came to him that the fish vomited him out on dry land. Upon whom does your salvation depend?

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