

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

CHRIST likened HIMSELF to a VINE and the KEEPER of that VINE. The HUSBANDMAN (i.e.; vine-keeper) is that ONE who grafts the branches to the VINE in HIS own time even as CHRIST said, *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”* The rootstock from which these branches were taken was “wild by nature” and though the “branches” had a form of life they could produce no pleasant fruit in their natural state and were but worthy of the “burning” to which all “unfruitful branches” are ultimately cast. These “dead” branches were made to live when the hands of the skillful VINEKEEPER attached (grafted) them to the VINE and the life of the VINE caused them to live. The casual observer might view the branches now attached to the VINE as being the same branch as they were before but the reality is that these branches (which were dead by nature, unfruitful, and useless) are not the same branches that they once were, because of the VINE to which they are now grafted into. Their outward shape and form are the same but the LIFE of the VINE is that which has made them new. *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* The man who is now a “new creature” is not the same man which he once was, “all things are become new” by the LIFE of the VINE which causes him now to live. *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins”* Paul said, *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”*

This “new man” is manifested as being a fruit-bearer according to the power of HIM who works mightily in him, *“But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”* Now lest these “new creatures” should be lifted up with pride and forget the source of their life and fruitfulness they have been given a “thorn in the flesh”. Paul speaks of a specific trial that he was given, yet all of the children of GOD are still carrying around this body of death (our flesh and its propensities) in which they groan constantly with Paul’s lament, *“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”* Is there anymore common complaint and source of misery for the true sons of GOD than to admit, *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.”*

This is that spiritual warfare into which all of the sons of GOD are ultimately placed as Paul said, *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* We would be overcome and destroyed were it not for the VINE to whom we are now attached and who is the SOURCE of all our help. *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”* The Psalmist spoke of this very truth when he said, *“Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.”* Only the faithfulness of the VINE to sustain the life of the branches keeps them from falling off to be cast away with the unfruitful branches. *“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.”* *“Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.”*

This TRUE VINE is CHRIST who is the eternal and only begotten son of GOD. HE is that ONE who has LIFE in HIMSELF even as HE told HIS disciples, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* To HIM all of the promises of the everlasting covenant of Redemption were made. The Branches are the objects of HIS mercy, those upon whom it pleased HIM to set HIS love and bring them forth in HIS own time to manifest the glory of HIS grace in their redemption and deliverance from the bondage of sin. Grace is the only difference between those who are numbered with HIM and those who are unfruitful branches, fit for nothing but to be burned with unquenchable fire. HE *“hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”* HE is the VINE, and we are the branches. Do you abide in the VINE?

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