Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

   Religion is a powerful force in the earth. Men will hate, persecute, and kill one another in the pursuit and perpetuation of it. The Muslim religion has of late been in the spotlight for quite a few incidents which proves that very fact. Yet, over the years, that religion which is commonly called "Christianity" by some has produced its own share of atrocities, perpetrated by men who were zealous to preserve what they perceived as its purity and to protect its subsequent generations against those who were thought to be its enemies. There is only <u>one</u> LORD, <u>one</u> FAITH, and <u>one</u> BAPTISM which those, who were first called Christians, at Antioch have followed through the ages.   On the other hand, there are hundreds of closely aligned substitutes, for that "*pure and undefiled religion*", which have been set forth by men in their quest to "improve" upon the original and make it into a kingdom of flesh and blood. It is these "substitutes" which have produced those who are ready to use the power of the flesh (i.e.;human governments and institutionalized religion) to defend and protect its supporters from all sorts of perceived "enemies", "heathens" and "heretics."

  The weapons of the warfare of true Christianity are not carnal but rest in the power of HIM who is the AUTHOR and FINISHER of its faith.   The battle, to which the sons of GOD are called, is not that which is articulated by "conservative" radio and TV hosts or flamboyant "evangelists" and "positive thinking" preachers of varying stripes, whose smiles and upbeat message appeal to the religious flesh of men.   In fact, they are often as much, the enemies of that "*faith which was once delivered to the saints*" as are the militant Muslims and other zealots armed with bombs and machine guns.

   They sometimes speak of the benefit of "faith" in a generic and generally inoffensive sort of way. The "conservative" pundits usually lay a groundwork to "prove" that our nation is one which was founded upon "Christianity" and they say it is therefore morally superior to other nations because of this fact. They equate "godliness" with those who agree with them and "godlessness" to those who oppose their political and world views.   The smiling preachers espouse the common message of the ability of men to accomplish great things and approach unto GOD by the power of their own free will, enabling GOD to aid them as they attempt great endeavors and perform mighty works of "faith" which are said to impress HIM even as they impress other men by their efforts and successes of one sort or another; especially the supposed conversion of the masses.

   Yet none of this has anything at all to do with the "*preaching of the cross*" which is the only message which compels the saints of GOD to worship at HIS footstool. It is this message alone, which characterizes the declaration of sound doctrine.

   Paul told Timothy that the "*time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine*". Some construe his admonition to Timothy to be a prophetical reference to an age or time in the distant future when men would no longer desire to hear the truth.   Yet it seems from the context of his remarks that he is apprising Timothy of the natural tendency of men in all ages, to move away from sound doctrine.

   Paul clearly declared that "*all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*" This persecution does not come from remaining morally upright. Rather, the persecution of which he speaks is related to an unwavering commitment to the singular declaration and worship of the crucified CHRIST. This message in its stark simplicity is totally reprehensible to the natural man because it gives him no place to glory. He will always seek to modify it in one fashion or other.

   Each one of us has, beating within us, an evil heart of unbelief which remains unchanged and would seek to overturn the things we have been taught by the SPIRT of GOD in the inward man. If it were possible, even the very elect would thus be deceived   Because of the close proximity of GOD's children to those who love this present world, the admonitions such as Paul set forth to Timothy are all the more dire and appropriate. "*<u>let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall</u>.*"

   The writer of Hebrews issues the same warning as the one Paul gave to the Corinthians, using a similar example. "*Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you <u>an evil heart of unbelief,</u> in departing from the living God.*" Those who are the true followers of CHRIST cannot be discovered by how they begin their journey but in what manner they complete it. Let no man judge himself to be a believer in JESUS CHRIST who has any confidence in any activity of his own flesh. "*For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end*" "*But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit <u>and belief of the truth</u>* "Thy free grace alone,"#11* **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at**
<u>forthepoor@windstream.net</u>